



Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
 Dannel P. Malloy, Governor  
 Steven K. Revczky, Commissioner



Linda Piotrowicz, Editor  
 Wednesday, November 14, 2012

## NOTES from the DEPARTMENT

### THE EASTERN OYSTER IN LONG ISLAND SOUND

By Hillary Kenyon, from *The Dredge*, Volume 5(1) Fall 2012

The eastern oyster, *Crassostrea virginica*, is a keystone species in Connecticut's coastal environment. Like the wedge-shaped keystones of ancient Roman arches, the oysters of Long Island Sound (LIS) bring together the building blocks of the ecosystem and bear the weight of maintaining its healthy state.

As the predominant filter-feeding organisms, Connecticut oysters are critical to preserving water quality. By filtering plankton, these oysters make a tasty smoothie of the water column and cleanse it of harmful pollutants in the process.

Natural oyster beds in LIS are large areas where old shell, or cultch, from past oyster generations cover the sea floor. These beds provide a hard, three-dimensional surface where oyster larvae may attach. Here the seed oysters, or spat as they are called just after settlement, may grow free from the adversity of the suffocating sediment.

In addition to these ecosystem services, the eastern oyster is a major economic asset to Connecticut. A resilient species, they flourish throughout the coast, and over 86,000 acres of Connecticut's sea floor are mapped and managed shellfish growing areas.

It is necessary to note, however, that only a mere fraction of this area can be considered natural oyster beds. The majority of the growing areas are privately leased from the state to be farmed and harvested by the hardworking harvesters that rely on the Sound for their livelihood.

The industry has seen considerable fluctuations in years past. Despite a resurgence of oystering in the 1980s and 1990s due to enhancements made on the natural seed oyster beds, disease outbreaks and extensive time periods with no natural sets have caused years with minimal harvests and overall irregularity in the industry.



The protozoan parasite *Haplosporidium nelsoni* (MSX) is responsible for considerable oyster mortality in Connecticut. Following the devastating outbreak of 1997, there were no commercially significant sets on record, and a period of low production followed. Such a profound gap in natural oyster sets struck a blow to the industry.

In response, Connecticut Sea Grant has provided funding for a research project that aims to devise a technique for enhancing the state's natural oyster beds, which provide the seed that the vast majority of the industry depends upon. In the case of a disease epizootic, or during a time with little to no natural recruitment, this method would provide an economic cushioning for the oyster industry.

Headed by Dr. Inke Sunila, shellfish pathologist at the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Aquaculture, the research employs a biodegradable mussel netting or sock used to deploy remote-set hatchery reared oysters. The idea behind the project is that the socking provides a degree of protection from predators.

Conventional culturing practices involve hatchery-raised oyster larvae settling on tiny shell fragments. This produces single (cultchless) oysters that require a nursery stage, elevated from the sea floor in either submerged cages or bags.

Remote setting, however, circumvents this phase and allows oyster larvae to settle on full shells as they do in the wild. Just as natural set, settling on cultch enables hatchery-raised oysters to grow directly on the bottom. In simple terms, remote setting simulates Connecticut's existing practices of collecting set from natural oyster beds and transplanting them to be grown on private leases. There is the added benefit of selective breeding—potential for increased oyster survival and growth.

(continued on Page 4)



**WHOLESALE HERBS  
U.S./INTERNATIONAL**

	Low	High
BASIL, 1lb, HI	6.00	6.00
CLRY ROOT, 20lb, CN	18.00	24.00
CILANTRO, 30s, CA	11.00	14.00
HRSRDSH, 5lb, MO	19.00	19.00
MINT, 1lb, NJ	10.00	13.00
OREGANO, 1lb, FL	7.00	8.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION**

November 12, 2012

Hogs sold by actual weights, prices quoted by hundred weight.

49-54	220-300 lbs	62.00-65.50
	300-400 lbs	59.00-63.50
45-49	220-270 lbs	57.00-62.00
	270-300 lbs	n/a
	300-400 lbs	55.00-58.00
Sows: US 1-3	300-500 lbs	54.00-56.00
	500-700 lbs	57.00-60.50
Boars:	300-700lbs	13.00-13.00

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, November 12, 2012

Live animals brought the following ave. prices per cwt.

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	22.00	25.00
61-75 lbs.	38.00	45.00
76-90 lbs.	47.50	50.00
91-105 lbs.	55.00	60.00
106 lbs. & up	65.00	70.00
Farm Calves	75.00	85.00
Starter Calves	32.00	35.00
Veal Calves	75.00	135.00
Open Heifers	85.00	115.00
Beef Steers	80.00	110.00
Beef Heifers	65.00	76.00
Feeder Steers	75.00	130.00
Stock Bulls	85.00	130.00
Beef Bulls	70.00	85.00
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	65.00	70.00
Goats each	70.00	165.00
Kid Goats	37.5	100.00
Canners	Up to	62.50
Cutters	63.00	66.00
Utility Grade Cows	67.00	73.00
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Rabbits each	3.00	23.00
Chickens each	3.00	40.00
Ducks each	4.00	18.00
Feeder Pigs	30.00	45.00
Lambs	65.00	140.00
Sheep	70.00	105.00

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES  
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

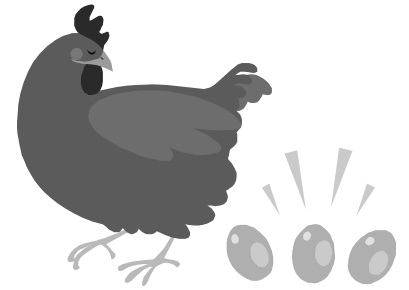
	Low	High
APPLE, Cort bu, 2-3/4, xfcy	34.00	34.00
APPLE, Cort, bu, no grd	22.00	22.00
APPLE, Empr, 12/3	30.00	30.00
APPLE, Fuji, bu no grd	24.00	28.00
APPLE, Gala, 100ct, fcy	27.00	27.00
APPLE, Mac, 88ct, xfcy	43.00	45.00
APPLE, Rd dl, 100ct, fcy	26.00	26.00
APPLE, Rome, bu, no grd	24.00	25.00
BROCCOLI, Cut, 20lb	14.00	14.00
BROCCOLI, 14ct	12.50	13.00
CABBAGE, Grn, bx	8.00	10.00
CABBAGE, Rd, 50lb	11.00	12.00
CABBAGE, Svy, bx	12.00	14.00
CIDER, 4/1gal	23.00	23.00
CIDER, 9 1/2gal	27.00	27.00
CRNBERRY, Ery blk, 24-12oz	32.00	36.00
KALE GRNS, crtn, 12-16	12.00	12.00
LETTUCE, Bstn, 12/4oz, gh	14.00	16.00
MUSTARD, Grn, crate	8.00	10.00
PARSNIPS, 25lb	24.00	24.00
PEAR, Bsc, 4/5 bu	31.00	32.00
POTATOES, 10lb, szA	1.90	1.90
POTATOES, 10/5lb	10.00	11.00
POTATOES, Chefs, 50lb	11.00	13.00
RUTABAGAS, 50lb	14.00	14.00
SQUASH, Acrn, bu	12.00	14.00
SQUASH, Bttrcp, 1-1/9	16.00	17.00
SQUASH, Bttrnt, 1-1/9	10.00	12.00
SQUASH, Bttrnt, bin, per lb	.21	.23
SQUASH, Hbbrd, 40lb	11.00	12.00
SQUASH, Hbbrd, bin, per lb	.24	.30
SQUASH, Spghetti, 1-1/9bu	14.00	15.00
TOMATOES, 10lb, hrlm, xl	15.00	20.00
TOMATOES, Vn ripe, 12lb, gh	26.00	26.00
TURNIP GRNS	8.00	10.00
TURNIPS, 25lb, Prpl top	8.00	9.00

(Boston Terminal and wholesale grower prices)

**NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

November 12, 2012

	Bulk/	High/	Low Dressing
<b>SLAUGHTER COWS:</b>			
Breakers	75-80% lean		
	68.00-72.00	73.00-78.00	64.00-67.00
Boners	80-85% lean		
	67.00-71.00	72.00-74.00	65.50-66.00
Lean	85-90% lean		
	63.00-68.00	69.00-74.50	55.00-62.00
<b>CALVES: All prices per cwt.</b>			
Graded Bull Calves			
	No.1 95-125lbs	115.00-130.00	
	No.2 95-130lbs	100.00-112.00	
	No.3 95-110lbs	80.00-110.00	
Slaughter bulls	860--1700lb	-	86.00-91.00
Holstein Heifers No.1	100-115lb		110.00-145.00
<b>SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Non-Traditional Markets:</b>			
Woolled & Shorn Choice and Prime 2-3			
	50-60lbs	n/a	
	65-70lbs	150.00-152.00	
	70-80lbs	122.00-146.00	
	90-110lbs	n/a	



**WEEKLY NEW ENGLAND  
SHELL EGGS**

Prices paid per dozen. Grade A brown eggs in cartons, delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.72-1.81
LARGE	1.55-1.64
MEDIUM	1.23-1.33

**NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA**

November 12, 2012

Prices to retailers, sales to volume buyers, USDA Grade A and Grade A, white eggs in cartons, per dozen. (Range)

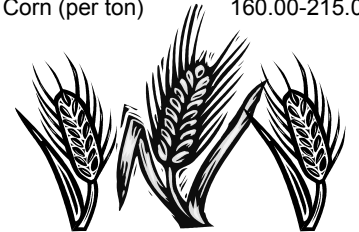
EXTRA LARGE	1.34-1.38
LARGE	1.32-1.36
MEDIUM	1.13-1.17

**PENNSYLVANIA GRAIN SUMMARY**

November 12, 2012

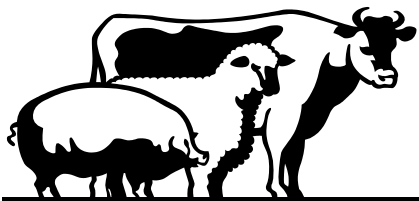
Eastern/Central Pennsylvania

Corn No 2 (per bu)	7.00-7.85
Wheat No 2 (per bu)	7.70-9.45
Oats No 2 (per bu)	3.25-4.90
Soybeans No 2 (per bu)	13.20-14.00
Ear Corn (per ton)	160.00-215.00



**Woolled & Shorn Good & Choice 1-3**

55-60lbs	116.00-126.00
60-80lbs	118.00-138.00
80-110lbs	114.00-128.00
<b>SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3: Med. Flesh</b>	
90-120lbs	68.00-72.00
120-160lbs	68.00-80.00
Utility 1-2: Thin Flesh	
105-160lbs	48.00-64.00
160--180lb	50.00-58.00
<b>SLAUGHTER GOATS: All goats are Selection 1, sold by the head, on est. weights.</b>	
40-45lb-	137.00-153800
50-55lbs	136.00-155.00
60-165lbs	124.00-138.00
70-90lbs	146.00-162.00
90-110lbs	135.00-150.00
Nannies/Does:90-125lbs	126.00-147.00
130-150lbs	124.00-142.00
Bucks/Billies: 125-145lbs	194.00-224.00
150-180lbs	190.00-234.00



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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).

4-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

6-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

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122-R. High Quality Christmas Trees: Fraser-Canaan-Balsam-Nordman-Concolor-Blue Spruce-Meyer Spruce-Discounted Commercial Grades available also! Hartikka Tree Farms (800)508-5099 [www.treeman2.com](http://www.treeman2.com)

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157-R. Three Hereford Heifers, 18-20 months, breed, \$950 each. 860-536-2588.

### MISCELLANEOUS

7-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.

The Connecticut Week Agricultural Report offers affordable classified advertisements for your farm-related needs. See Page 4 for details and rates, or call Jane Slupecki at 860-713-258 for more information.

### MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION SHORT COURSE

The Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut, in cooperation with the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, is sponsoring a short course for new and novice syrup makers on producing quality maple syrup. It will be held at Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center in Hampton on November 28, December 5, and December 8, 2012.

This soup-to-nuts course will include a detailed written manual and cover such topics as the health and management of maple trees; tapping, collecting & storing sap; and making and packaging syrup, with an emphasis on quality control throughout the process.

Whether you want to make a few gallons or run a commercial operation, this course will provide the fundamentals essential to making a good, consistent, and delicious product.

Registration fee for the three-part course is \$40, and covers refreshments and handout/reference materials, including a copy of the North American Maple Syrup Producers Manual. For more information, contact Steve Broderick (860-455-9534 or [sbroderick@ctwoodlands.org](mailto:sbroderick@ctwoodlands.org)) or Mark Harran (860-567-3805 or [jmharran@aol.com](mailto:jmharran@aol.com)).

### COMMISSIONER REVICZKY CELEBRATES CT GROWN FOR CT KIDS WEEK

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky celebrated the sixth annual CT Grown for CT Kids Week, October 14-22, 2012, by visiting two schools in Cheshire, where he shared lunch with students, foodservice staff, teachers, and administrators.

CT Grown for CT Kids Week, established through Public Act 06-135, is a collaboration between the Connecticut departments of Education and Agriculture, school foodservice directors, and other interested parties. The week, held in October to coincide with national Farm-to-School Month, promotes Connecticut agriculture, farmers, and the use of local foods in school meals to students and their families, using cafeteria and classroom programs. It can also be promoted at farms, farmers' markets, and other locations in the community.



Commissioner Reviczky (right) with Dr. Greg Florio, Superintendent (left), and Vincent Masciana, Director of Management Services (center)



Commissioner Reviczky with Eileen Mankus, Cafeteria Manager, Chapman Elementary School (left), and Madeleine Diker, Cheshire Food Service Director

### DOAG AG VIABILITY GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO NOV 16

The application deadline for the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Viability Grant has been extended through November 16, 2012, due to Storm Sandy. Please contact Ron Olsen at 860-713-2550 or [Ronald.olsen@ct.gov](mailto:Ronald.olsen@ct.gov) with any questions.

**THE EASTERN OYSTER IN LONG ISLAND SOUND***(continued from Page 1)*

The "Clinton" strain of oysters has shown significant resilience and was chosen for the experiments. "Clinton" broodstock were obtained from Clinton, Connecticut, following the MSX outbreak of 1997 and have been selectively bred over numerous generations.

The plan was to manually deploy the oysters on the lease, now marked with bamboo poles and cinder blocks. In due time, the oysters were released over the boat edge, half with the biodegradable netting, and half without.

Two types of netting were utilized as potential predator control: one made of pure cotton, the other with a polyester base material. Both served as predator deterrents in the early weeks after deployment when growth is most critical. Bare (seedless) cultch was also deployed on the lease to serve as a comparison to natural oyster recruitment for this season.

In order to track growth and survival rates, the researchers have begun a monthly sampling of the oysters that will continue into the next year. They predict that this approach of using biodegradable netting for oyster bottom culture has the potential to promote Connecticut oyster production in many ways.

In addition to filling the gap between natural oyster sets, this form of remote setting disease-resistant oysters could potentially enhance currently unproductive natural beds and provide further economic prosperity. In terms of ecological significance, establishing successful beds will also promote improved water quality and overall improved biodiversity and health of Long Island Sound.

**2012 CONNECTICUT FARM & ENERGY EXPO  
DEC 1 IN GLASTONBURY**

The Connecticut Farm Energy Program will host its 2nd annual Connecticut Farm & Energy Expo from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 1, 2012, at the Glastonbury Riverfront Community Center, 300 Welles Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033.

This event will showcase 30+ energy and agriculture exhibitors, with informative sessions on the hour, every hour from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., for homeowners, agriculture producers, businesses, and community members interested in learning more about energy opportunities and technology in Connecticut.

There will also be eco-friendly cars, interactive displays, demos for the kids including alternative-energy-powered ice cream, and the healthy eating specialist from Whole Foods Market.

Admission is free and all are welcome to attend.

For more information about exhibitors and sponsors go to [www.CTFarmEnergy.org](http://www.CTFarmEnergy.org) or [www.Facebook.com/ConnecticutFarm.Energy](http://www.Facebook.com/ConnecticutFarm.Energy), or call the Connecticut Farm Energy Program at 860-345-3977.

**CT POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING DEC 4**

The Connecticut Pomological Society will have its annual meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2012, at the Gallery Restaurant, 141 New London Turnpike, Glastonbury, CT.

For more information, please contact Rick Macsuga at [Richard.Macsuga@ct.gov](mailto:Richard.Macsuga@ct.gov) or 860-713-2544.



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OF AGRICULTURE**

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