

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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Connecticut Department of Agriculture
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GROWERS AT HARTFORD REGIONAL FARMERS' MARKET LOOK FORWARD TO BUSY MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND

By Steve Jensen

Office of DoAg Cmsr. Steven K. Reviczky

Alfonso Caturano has spent spring and summer weekends at the Hartford Regional Farmers' market since he was a boy, so he knows how important the upcoming Mother's Day sales are for growers.

Now a partner in his family's J.C. Farms in Durham, Caturano is optimistic that turnout at the market - somewhat dampened so far by stubbornly cool weather - will be typically robust this weekend.

More than 30 growers were at the market last Saturday, and about a dozen on Sunday. Almost all were selling bedding plants, hanging baskets and annual flowers aimed at Mother's Day gifts and early-season planting. Caturano said sales have been building over the last few weekends.

"With this weather, you just have to hope that you will sell a little later this year," Caturano said as he worked in a stiff breeze blowing across the market on Sunday. "As long as that happens we'll be okay."

More than 50 growers have signed up to sell this season at the market - the largest in Connecticut.

One of them is Caturano's grandfather, Northford farmer Joe Diglio, who has been at the market for decades.

Wearing a green-and-yellow winter cap to fight Sunday's early morning chill, Diglio said the reason for customers to shop the market instead of big-box stores is simple.

"The quality is better and the price is better," he said. "Buy here and support your local grower."

Bill Remington is a one-man operation who grows on a few acres and in a couple of greenhouses in Suffield, and sells his products at the market out of the back of a mini-van.

He said the market's large size and early opening date have made it appealing for him to sell here for many years, and he's looking forward to the expected rush of customers this weekend.

"I always say this is the main place to be right here," he said.

Market gates are open from 4 a.m. to 10 a.m. Customers are advised to bring a flashlight and a wagon to carry plants and other items.

For updates on market activity please visit:
www.facebook.com/HartfordRegionalMarket



Shoppers at the Hartford Regional Farmers' Market last weekend look over and load up bedding plants and hanging baskets offered by dozens of Connecticut growers.



NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

		Low	High
49-54	220-300 lbs	88.00	91.00
	300-400 lbs	87.50	90.00
54-58	220-300 lbs	82.00	87.00
	300-400 lbs	85.50	87.50
Sows, US1-3	300-500 lbs	87.00	90.00
	500-700 lbs	89.00	90.00
Boars	300-700 lbs	19.00	21.00

PA GRADER FEEDER PIGS

Lancaster, PA, per cwt. April 16

		Low	High
Gr US 1-	wt 20-25	310.00	325.00
	wt 25-30	255.00	275.00
	WT 30-40	220.00	270.00
	wt 40-50	210.00	220.00
	wt 100-130	130.00	145.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, May 5, 2014

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	45.00	50.00
61-75 lbs.	75.00	110.00
76-90 lbs.	130.00	140.00
91-105 lbs.	150.00	170.00
106 lbs. & up	175.00	190.00
Farm Calves	2.00	250.00
Starter Calves	50.00	55.00
Veal Calves	100.00	230.00
Open Heifers	125.00	205.00
Beef Steers	115.00	146.00
Beef Heifers	112.00	135.00
Feeder Steers	110.00	132.50
Stock Bulls	116.00	142.50
Beef Bulls	106.00	123.00
Boars	55.00	65.00
Sows	70.00	82.50
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Goats each	95.00	270.00
Kid Goats	n/a	
Canners	up to	106.00
Cutters	107.00	111.00
Utility Grade Cows	112.00	118.00
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Rabbits each	5.00	30.00
Chickens each	4.00	21.00
Ducks each	11.00	19.00
Feeder Pigs	n/a	n/a
Lambs	70.00	190.00
Sheep	65.00	100.00
Rabbits each	5.00	13.00
Chickens each	6.00	18.00
Ducks each	7.00	25.00
Feeder Pigs	n/a	n/a
Lambs	150.00	275.00
Sheep	165.00	225.00
Lambs	185.00	280.00
Sheep	125.00	210.00

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	LOW	HIGH
APPLE, MAC, FCY, 120CT	16.00	17.00
Chives, 12's	10.00	11.00
FIDDLEHEAD, PER LB	9.00	9.00
CIDER, 9 1/2 gal	18.00	18.00

SHIPPED IN

	LOW	HIGH
ASPARAGUS, 11lb, CA	30.00	36.00
BEAN, grn, bu, FL	22.00	26.00
BROCCOLI, 14CT, FL	13.00	14.00
MUSTARD 12'S, GA	14.00	15.00
APRICOTS, 80CT, CA	38.00	38.00
BASIL, 15'S, FL	19.00	22.00
CORN, 4dz, FL	14.00	16.00
DANDELION GREEN, 12s, GA	16.00	18.00
AVOCADOS, 36CT, MX	41.00	42.00
PEA, ENGLISH, 1 1/9BU, CA	55.00	65.00
KALE, 12ct, TX	18.00	20.00
BLUEBERRIES 12/6OZ FL	23.00	24.00
SPINACH, 1.3BU, NJ	18.00	18.50
RHUBARB, 20LB, OR	40.00	40.00
PEA, SUGAR, 10LB, GU	18.00	25.00
NECTARINES, 72CT, CA	29.00	30.00
PEACHES, 25LB, WHITE, CA	30.00	32.00
STRAWBERRIES, 8/1LB, CA	14.00	20.00

WHOLESALE MUSHROOMS

	LOW	HIGH
WHITE, 10LB, PA	13.00	15.00
SHIITAKE, 3LB, LGN, PA	11.00	15.00
OYSTER, 3LB, MED, PA	13.00	13.00
PORTOBELLA, CAPS, 5LB, LGN	8.00	9.00
PORTOBELLA, 5LB, LGN	9.00	11.00
PORTOBELLA, SLICED, 6/6OZ	10.50	11.50

USDA WEEKLY RETAIL PORK PRICES**NORTHEAST USA, PER LB.**

	Low	High
CC CHOPS, B/IN	2.39	3.99
TENDERLOIN	3.49	5.99
BACKRIB	2.88	4.99
Smoked Chops	4.99	5.29
SPARE RIBS	2.39	3.99
HAM STEAK	3.29	10.00
HAM, BNLS	2.69	4.33
BACON,	3.33	6.65
CANADA BACON	9.33	9.33
ITALIAN SAUSAGE	2.48	4.99
FEET	1.39	2.49

PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Average Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:			
breakers 75-80% lean	94.50	100.00	
boners 80-85% lean	91.00	95.75	
lean 85-90% lean	85.25	90.00	
CALVES graded bull			
No 1 95-120lbs	315.00	354.00	
No 2 95-120lbs	278.00	315.00	
No 3 80-105lbs	225.00	271.00	
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS			
HiCh/Prm3-4	147.50	150.50	
Ch2-3	142.50	146.75	
Sel1-2	136.50	140.50	
SLAUGHTER STEERS.			
HiCh/prm3-4	149.00	153.75	
Ch2-3	142.75	148.50	
Sel	141.00	144.50	
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS			
HiCh/prm2-3	131.75	137.00	
Ch2-3	124.50	128.50	
Sel2-3	121.00	124.25	
VEALERS-60-120lbs	60.00	120.00	
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: ch/pr 2-3			
40-60lbs	240.00	260.00	
60-80lb	210.00	220.00	
80-110lbs	212.00	227.00	
SLAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3			
70-120 lbs	92.00	95.00	
120-160lbs	57.00	76.00	
Bucks 120-160lbs	50.00	50.00	
160-200lbs	45.00	58.00	
SLAUGHTER GOATS: Sel. 1, by head, est.			
30-40lb	n/a		
40-60lb	137.00	172.00	
60-80lb	215.00	225.00	
80-100lb	230.00	260.00	
Nannies/Does: 80.-130lbs	167.00	190.00	
130-180lbs	180.00	200.00	
Bucks/Billies: 100-150lbs	215.00	265.00	
150-160lbs	280.00	265.00	

EASTERN PA GRAIN

Average price per bushel

BARLEY	3.12
CORN	5.14
OATS	n/a
SOYBEANS	14.70
WHEAT	7.62

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	1.23	1.27
LARGE	1.21	1.25
MEDIUM	1.10	1.14

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Prices paid per doz. Grade A brown egg in carton d delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.71	1.79
LARGE	1.65	1.73
MEDIUM	1.41	1.48

ADVERTISEMENTS

The Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report offers affordable classified advertisements for your farm-related needs. See Page 4 for details and rates, or call Jane Slupecki at 860-713-2588 for more information.

Advertisements of 35 or fewer words for job openings at Connecticut farms may be placed for up to four weeks for free in the report's new **CT FARM EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION SECTION.**

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.

48-R. Ford 1996 – Powerstroke 250 - 8 ft. flatbed – Good condition. 176,000 mi. \$8,000.00. 203-237-7998.

52-R. IH 856 Tractor, 3pt, sharp all original, \$7,500. JD 6405 2WD with loader. JD 4520, \$8,500. JD 730 Wide Front, \$7,500. Ford TW5, 2WD, 2,100 hrs, \$17,500. PTO generators 20,000KW. NH 575 baler with thrower, \$10,000. NH 310 baler and thrower, \$2,500. JD 456 Round baler net wrap silage special. CASE IH RBX 442 Round Baler. NH 311 Baler, \$4,000. 203-530-4953.

53-R. Evergreen Farm for sale. West Granby, CT. 85 acres plus ranch home 2.1 acres cabin/stone fireplace. Call 860-379-1963 for info.

54-R. New Holland 477 Hayliner \$2,250.00. 4 Universal Box Brooders with base. \$350.00. 860-684-1621.

56-R. Tomato stakes, tomato twine, fence boards, custom cut lumber. Staehly Products Co. LLC. 860-873-9774.

58-R. New Holland 479 Hay Bine. Good working condition. \$500. Call 860-274-8159.

59-R. Black Angus Cows with calf on side. Call 860-212-5463.

60. 2 Farmall B Tractors, excellent rubber. \$1,500 each. 860-668-2920

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.

61. FreshPoint-a Produce Wholesaler in Hartford is looking to expand produce volumes with Local growers and their products. Grow with a commitment! Please call Rob HENCE @ 860-244-0407 or email Robert.hence@freshpoint.com for more info.

WANTED

49-R. Orchard help wanted. Looking for field person and laborer or farm couple to help operate small apple and peach orchard in Cheshire. Experience in orchard practices and machinery operation desirable. Hourly wage to be paid. Possible future opportunity for housing and operation of business. Great opportunity for ag-school graduate with farm background or as an opportunity to expand your existing orchard operation. Please email qualifications to chesappleorch@att.net

CT FARM EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION

51-R. Energetic, organized, friendly apprentice for 2014: Environmental Educator/Harvest Manager to manage harvest/distribution for 68-member CSA. Plan/publicize/facilitate farm-based educational workshops. April-October. 18-24 hours/week, \$15/hour. Interest in full-time 2015 farm manager. www.friendsofboulderknoll.com/hiring

57-R. Full-time master hydroponic grower position available in Bridgeport. Must be highly motivated, experienced with large computer controlled greenhouse, nutrient film growing technology, supervising others. Competitive salary and benefits. www.bootcampfarms.com/jobs



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DoAg Studying How Wastewater Affects Oyster Growth In Housatonic River, Long Island Sound

A study over the next two weeks of how wastewater affects oysters growing in the Housatonic River and Long Island Sound will include use of a dye that will briefly turn a portion of the river reddish, and the Dept. of Agriculture is advising residents that the process is harmless.

The study, being conducted from May 8-17, will track the flow and dispersion of wastewater discharging into the Housatonic River and Long Island Sound from the Stratford and Milford Housatonic Water Pollution Control Facilities (WPCF).

On the evening of May 7, dye will be released from the Stratford WPCF and will continue for 12 hours until approximately 9:30 am on May 8. The second dye injection, at the Milford Housatonic WPCF, will begin early on May 14 and continue through midday.

Portions of the Lower Housatonic River visible from the shores of Stratford and Milford may turn reddish in color for a brief time. The dye – called Rhodamine WT - is not harmful to people or the ecosystem.

"The Housatonic is one of Connecticut's most important natural oyster-producing areas," DoAg Commissioner Steven K. Revickzy said. "This study will evaluate the impact of wastewater discharges on shellfish growing in the river and will help determine where they can be safely harvested."

The goal of the project is to expand oyster growth and cultivation in the river while protecting public health and oyster habitat through science-based management practices. The study is part of an ongoing oyster resource-enhancement project developed by DoAg Director David Carey and staff at DoAg's Bureau of Aquaculture.

Scientists and engineers from DoAg, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's New England Regional Laboratory, and staff from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Shellfish Sanitation Program will conduct the study.

FARMERS' MARKETS OPENING THIS WEEKEND

Ellington – Sat. 9 a.m.-noon/Arbor Park, Town Center, Main Street

Mystic – Tues. 2-6 p.m./Quambaug Firehouse, 50 Old Stonington Road

New Milford – Sat. 9 a.m.-noon/Town Green, Main Street

Seymour – Tues, noon-6 p.m./Community/Senior Center, Pine Street.

SOIL HEALTH/FOOD GROWING PROGRAM IN TOLLAND

An interactive program dedicated to soil health and growing food focused on permaculture and urban gardening will be presented on June 7 at the Tolland Agricultural Center in Vernon.

The program will be presented by Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council and is funded by USDA-NRCS Connecticut.

Registration is \$20 and must be received by May 30. Payments can be made through PayPal at easternctrctd@gmail.com with "Healthy Soils" in the subject line.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR 2014 CT AGRISCIENCE IN THE CLASSROOM GRANT

The Connecticut Trustees to the Eastern State's Exposition/Big E are seeking applications for a \$500 grant to be given to an elementary school teacher to fund a CT Ag in the Classroom special project.

The teacher, guest, school principal, and representative from CT Ag in the Classroom will be invited to attend the Governor's Reception in the Connecticut Building on Connecticut Day at the Fair, where they will be introduced.

Funds also will be provided to transport and pay fair entry for one bus of students and chaperones to the Big E on a day convenient to the teacher and the school.

Any Connecticut elementary school teacher is eligible to apply for this grant. Applications are due no later than May 27, and are available through program coordinator Eleanore Provencal at eleanore@ctaef.org



Alfonso Caturano of J.C. Farms in Durham (above) and Bill Remington of Suffield (below) ready their products for sale at the Hartford Regional Farmer's Market last weekend.



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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