

# Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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



Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
February 14, 2017



*Photos courtesy of Four Season Farm*

## **PLANNED HYDROPONIC FARM IN SUFFIELD GETS STATE FINANCIAL BACKING**

A 43-acre indoor hydroponic vegetable farm in Suffield being created by a well-known Connecticut farmer and his partners will receive \$3 million in state assistance and is expected to create 40 new jobs over the next two years.

Four Season Farm is a venture being proposed by Joe Geremia, who now runs seven acres of greenhouses in Wallingford; Henry Froese, a pioneer and expert in the building of greenhouse operations, and Herbert Soroca, CEO of North Cove Capital Advisors in Stamford, which provides financial, management and strategic advice to emerging growth companies.

Four Season Farm LLC has purchased 94 acres of the Baker Farm on Poole Road, and its five-year plan includes a 10-acre facility that will produce 5.75 million pounds of tomatoes the first year and 7.5 million pounds by the third year. Groundbreaking is expected to happen this spring.

At least 40 new jobs are expected to be created in the initial phase, and the farm will operate in two shifts.

Eventually, the farm plans to create a 43-acre greenhouse complex and add crops such as cucumbers, peppers and micro-greens.

The facility will use the latest technology, including computer controlled light, humidity and nutrients.

The state Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) is providing financing support for the purchase of machinery and equipment for the farm, which will supply vine-ripened tomatoes primarily to the Connecticut and Northeast markets. The state Bond

Commission approved the financial package earlier this month.

From November to March, most fresh tomatoes sold in the Northeast are grown in Mexico, various Central American countries and the Caribbean Islands. Those tomatoes are hothouse-grown and are technically considered vine-ripened, but are shipped in various stages of ripeness.

Geremia, who grew up on his parent's farm in Wallingford and has developed his business into one of the most successful and environmentally-friendly greenhouse facilities in the Northeast, said Four Season Farm will offer superb tasting, vine-ripened tomatoes.

"Four Season Farm will lay the foundation for a new generation of indoor agriculture to compete with foreign produce, create living wage jobs and tax revenues for Suffield and the state, and provide locally grown, healthy food for Connecticut consumers," said Geremia, a former Connecticut Outstanding Young Farmer of the Year. "We are grateful for the state's support."

Over the past 20 years, Geremia has also traveled extensively to learn the latest in vegetable production techniques and greenhouse and distribution technology, and brought the best solutions back to his own operation.

Froese is a pioneer and builder of the greenhouse industry in Ontario, Canada, where he has built more than 800 acres of greenhouses.

**LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY**

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing breakers 75-80% lean	56.00	
59.50		
boners 80-85% lean	55.00	59.50
lean 88-90% lean	51.00	56.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	120.00	128.00
Choice 2-3	115.00	119.50
Select 1-2	110.00	116.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Choice 2-3	84.00	88.00
Sel 1-2	79.00	82.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	116.00	120.00
Choice 2-3	109.00	113.00
Sel 1-2	107.00	109.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 98-120 lbs	80.00	90.00
FEEDER STEERS Med & Lge 1		
300-400 lbs	120.00	132.00
400-500 lbs	125.00	140.00
500-600 lbs	117.00	135.00
600-700 lbs	110.00	129.00
700-800 lbs	115.00	126.00
800-900 lbs	108.00	123.00
900-1000 lbs	120.00	123.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
90-110 lbs	232.00	247.00
130-150 lbs	175.00	182.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-120 lbs	120.00	125.00
120-160 lbs	100.00	130.00
160-200 lbs	90.00	117.00
200-300 lbs	82.00	105.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
20-40 lbs	125.00	127.00
40-60 lbs	135.00	165.00
60-80 lbs	160.00	185.00
80-100 lbs	185.00	215.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	175.00	195.00
130-180 lbs	210.00	250.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
100-150 lbs	210.00	240.00
150-250 lbs	265.00	325.00

**DAIRY REPLACEMENT COWS**

New Holland, PA, February 8, 2017. By the head.

**FRESH COWS:**

SUPREME	1650.00	1675.00
APPROVED	1275.00	1625.00
MEDIUM	900.00	1250.00
SPRINGING COWS (7-9 MONTHS)		
APPROVED	1350.00	1550.00
MEDIUM	950.00	1100.00
BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	1075.00	1425.00
MEDIUM	775.00	1050.00

**NATIONAL SPENT FOWL**

Per lb.

Heavy fowl - SE broiler/breeder hens		
7 lbs & up	.06	.10
Light fowl - Majority price for removal. Live hens, mostly egg-layers.		
avg. weight live 3.5 lbs	.00	.07

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES**Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices  
NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LB CTN	14.00	14.00
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 12-4 OZ	16.00	16.50
APPLE, GALA, FCY, 12-3 LB, 2-1/2"	20.00	20.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, XFCY, 80	70.00	70.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, XFCY, 88	70.00	70.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, 80	40.00	40.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, 88	40.00	40.00
APPLES, MAC, FCY, CELLPK, 120	18.00	19.00
APPLES, MAC, FCY, CELLPK, 140	18.00	19.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 12-3 LB, 2-1/2"	22.00	22.00
APPLES, MAC, #1, CELPK, 120	17.00	18.00
APPLES, MAC, #1, CELLPK, 140	17.00	18.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEETS, RED, SM, LOOSE, 25 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEETS, RED, MD, LOOSE, 25LBS	8.00	8.00
BEETS, GOLD, MED, 25 LBS	12.00	12.00
CIDER, APPLE, 4-1 GALLON	19.00	21.00
CIDER, APPLE, 9-1/2 GALLON	21.00	22.50
EGGPLANT, CHINESE, M, 1/2 BU	24.00	25.00
EGGPLANT, THAI, M, 20 LBS	15.00	16.00
POTATO, RNDRED, #1, SZA, 50LB	14.00	15.00
POTATO, RNDRED, #1, SZB, 50LB	16.00	18.00
POTATO, RNDRED, NG, SZA, 50LB	11.00	12.00
POTATO, RNDWT, #1, CHEF, 50LB	10.00	12.00
POTATO, RUSST, #1, 10 OZ, 50LB	11.00	11.00
POTATO, YELLOW, #1, SZA, 50LB	13.00	13.00
POTATO, YELLOW, #1, SZB, 50LB	16.00	16.00
POTATO, YLLW, #1, CHEF, 50LB	13.00	15.00
SQUASH, ACORN, MED 1-1/9	14.00	14.00
TOMATOES, GHS, CHERRY, 5LB	10.00	14.00
TOMATO, GHS, CHERRY, 8-10OZ	20.00	24.00
TOMATO, GHSE HEIRLM, 10 LB	23.00	25.00
TOMATO, GHSE, LOOSE, 25 LB	15.00	15.00

**WHOLESALE GREENHOUSE CROPS**

Per unit. Country codes from www.produceTraceability.org

CUKE, LNG SDLS, CN, LG, 12S	15.00	17.00
CUKE, LNG SDLS, CN, M, 12S	13.00	17.00
CUKE, LNG SDLS, HN, 12S	16.00	16.00
CUKE, LNG SDLS, MX, M, 12S	14.00	16.00
CUKE, LNG SDLS, MX, L, 12S	16.00	17.00
CUKE, PERSIAN, DO, M, 20 LBS	30.00	32.00
CUKE, PERSIAN, MX, M, 20 LBS	20.00	20.00
EGGPLNT, ITLIAN, CA, S, 11 LBS	18.00	20.00
EGGPLNT, ITLIAN, NL, 11 LBS	18.00	20.00
EGGPLNT, LNG STRIPED, NL	22.00	23.00
ENDIVE, WITLOOF, BE, 5 KG	16.00	18.00
ENDIVE, WITLOOF, NL, 5 KG	16.00	18.00
ENDIVE, WITLOOF, RED, NL, 5 KG	22.00	22.00
LETTUCE, BOSTON, CA, 12-4OZ	16.00	17.00
MACHE, CA, 3 LBS	10.00	12.00
MACHE, US, 3 LBS	12.00	12.00
PEPPERS, RED, MX, XL, 11 LB	12.00	14.00
PEPPER, ORG, RED, MX, XL, 11 LB	16.00	16.00
PEPPER, YEL, MX, XL, 11 LB	16.00	18.00
PEPPER, ORG, YEL, MX, XL, 11 LB	20.00	20.00
PEPPER, ORNG, MX, XL, 11 LB	18.00	20.00
PEPPR, ORG, ORNG, MX, XL, 11LB	28.00	28.00
TOMATO, CA, VINERIEPE, 25 LBS	15.00	15.00
TOMATO, US, ONVINE, M-L, 11 LB	17.00	18.00
TOMATO, HEIRLM, CA, M-L, 10LB	25.00	30.00
WINTERCRESS, US, 2.2 LBS	13.00	16.00
WINTRCRESS, ORG, US, 2.2 LB	26.00	26.00

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT - February 13, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	25.00	35.00
61-75 lbs.	40.00	45.00
76-90 lbs.	54.00	57.00
91-105 lbs.	57.50	61.00
106 lbs. & up	62.00	65.00
Farm Calves	66.00	75.00
Starter Calves	42.00	62.00
Veal Calves	n/a	n/a
Feeder Heifers	80.00	85.00
Beef Heifers	66.00	73.50
Feeder Steers	65.00	70.00
Beef Steers	n/a	n/a
Feeder Bulls	86.00	90.00
Beef Bulls	n/a	n/a
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	n/a	n/a
Sheep, each	125.00	135.00
Lambs each	n/a	n/a
Goats each	n/a	n/a
Kid Goats each	n/a	n/a
Canners	up to	62.00
Cutters	63.00	66.00
Utility Grade Cows	67.00	70.00
Rabbits each	10.00	50.00
Chickens each	3.00	27.50
Ducks each	n/a	n/a

Auction is open Monday, February 20, 2017

**NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA**

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

XTRA LARGE	.64	.81
LARGE	.58	.72
MEDIUM	.48	.61

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**

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

XTRA LARGE	1.12	1.20
LARGE	1.07	1.18
MEDIUM	.72	.79
SMALL	.56	.66

**NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION**

Avg dressing. Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	56.00	63.50
	300-350 lbs	56.00	59.00
	350-400 lbs	55.00	55.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	41.00	52.00
	300-350 lbs	44.00	55.00
	350-400 lbs	42.00	46.00
Sows, US 1-3	300-500 lbs	21.00	21.00
Boars	200-300 lbs	30.00	32.00
	300-400 lbs	11.00	11.00
	400-800 lbs	5.00	5.00

**LIVE FOWL AUCTIONS**

Price range is per unit as labeled.

Hackettstown, NJ		
Heavy fowl, each	3.00	8.75
Greystone Small Animal, Manheim, PA		
Red fowl, 5-6 lbs, per lb	.60	.90
Red fowl, 4-5 lbs, per lb	.40	.45
Crossbred fowl, 5-9 lbs, per lb	.65	1.05

**(Continued from Page 1)**

Froese and his companies have had a hand in building over 1,300 acres of greenhouses in North America, for which he acted as general contractor on behalf of the greenhouse farmers.

In announcing the financing package, Governor Dannel P. Malloy said:

“Farming in the 21st century can be very different from what we know, and Four Season Farm can lead the way with this innovative, technologically advanced operation. We’re happy to have them establish their operations in our state and look forward to seeing them grow.”

Four Season Farm is working with experienced firms and consultants from Canada and The Netherlands to develop the project.

The farm will employ the latest in technological advances and offer multiple “green” opportunities to use CO<sub>2</sub>, conserve water, land, and energy.

“It’s great to see technology play a role in improving our farming capabilities,” DECD Commissioner Catherine Smith said. “And what could be better than assuring consumers a fresh supply of delicious, vine-ripened, locally grown vegetables year-round?”

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky, an advocate of indoor agriculture who has toured several large-scale hydroponic facilities in Quebec, Canada, said the Suffield project could lead the way to transforming Connecticut’s greenhouse industry.

“Hydroponic and other types of indoor farming are becoming increasingly effective alternatives to traditional growing methods in many parts of the world,” Reviczky said. “Connecticut has a well-established greenhouse industry that I believe could make the transition to growing food 12 months a year, and has the customer base to support it.”

**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.

23-R. Hundreds of steel hoops, 21 and 31 foot long for nursery or high tunnel. 2 STIP3 3,000 gallon oil tanks, 64” diameter by 18’ long. Call 860-668-7371.

**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.

**FSMA PRODUCE SAFETY RULE/PRODUCE SAFETY ALLIANCE APPROVED GROWER TRAINING COURSES OFFERED**

Two opportunities to earn Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training Course certification are being offered by UCONN Extension in cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture/USDA Specialty Crop program.

The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement that: “At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.”

The course has been designed to provide a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices knowledge that includes emphasis on co-management of food safety and environmental management goals, while outlining the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule.

The two-day courses are being offered:

- **February 28 and March 1/9:00 am through 3:30 pm**  
**March 2, snow date**

**Registration Deadline February 20**

Tolland County Extension Center, 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT 06066-4599/860-875-3331

- **March 8 and 9/9:00 am through 3:30 pm**  
**March 10, snow date**

**Registration Deadline March 1**

Middlesex County Extension Center, 1066 Saybrook Road Haddam, Connecticut 06438/860-345-4511

There is no charge to Connecticut farmers. Fee for others is \$100, and an additional \$35 for the AFDO certificate. .

To register, please email [diane.hirsch@uconn.edu](mailto:diane.hirsch@uconn.edu) or call 203-407-3163. Also include names and contact info for all attendees and their farm or organization names.

In order to obtain a certificate that provides evidence of compliance with the training requirements of the rule, you must be present for the entire two-day course.

**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.

25-R. Creating and Improving Pollinator Habitat on Your Farm – March 9, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. More information: <https://tinyurl.com/jnc6xsv>. 5.25 pesticide recertification credits. To register, contact Tracy Zarrillo at 203-974-8573 or [Tracy.Zarrillo@ct.gov](mailto:Tracy.Zarrillo@ct.gov).

**WANTED**

22-R. Full time reliable Nursery worker needed for an established nursery and Christmas Tree Farm. Kogut’s Hemlock Hill Tree Farm, located in Suffield and Enfield, seeks a full time individual experienced with farm equipment, pesticides, fertilizers, and general practices or maintaining and operating a successful nursery. For information and/or to apply, please contact Kathy Kogut at [wkogut@cox.net](mailto:wkogut@cox.net) or 203-641-1632.

26-R. Trailer load of hardwood treetops or imperfect logs for firewood, Danbury. Please call Joe at 203-994-0997.

**CT AG EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION**

14-R. Fairfield County farm seeks an experienced farm manager. Extensive farming experience either practical/educational, including all facets (vegetable, berries, orchard farming). Salary and benefits including on farm housing for a family of four. Email: [Jasmine@summitdevelopment.com](mailto:Jasmine@summitdevelopment.com)

### ANNUAL CAES TOBACCO RESEARCH MEETING NEXT WEEK

The CT Agricultural Experiment Station's annual meeting for those interested in research concerned with growing wrapper tobacco in the Connecticut River Valley will be held Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 9 a.m. at the East Windsor Scout Hall, 28 Abbe Rd., East Windsor CT.

In case of a weather-closing of East Windsor schools, the snow date will be February 22 at the same time and location.

The discussion will include:

- Research concerning strategies to reduce blue mold and fungicide/pesticide residues
- Aphid-transmitted potato viruses, target spot, black root rot and cyst nematodes
- Soil physical and chemical effects on tobacco growth
- Breeding for resistance to disease
- Pesticide regulations

The meeting will qualify for Connecticut and Massachusetts pesticide applicator re-certification credit. Those interested in obtaining credit should be sure to have their license number available at the meeting.

The meeting is open to everyone and is free, but donations will be accepted for the Scout Hall.

### AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL REGISTRATION OPEN

The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC) invites agricultural non-profits, agricultural producer associations, agricultural cooperatives, federal and state agricultural agencies, and Connecticut municipalities to register for Ag Day at the Capitol.

Ag Day will be held on Wednesday, March 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the North Lobby and Hall of Flags at the Capitol, 210 Capitol Ave., Hartford.

Registration and payment to participate in is due by Wednesday, March 1.

CAIC is also accepting nominations for the Connecticut Outstanding Young Farmer and Ag Journalism awards. For more information, or to register, visit:

<http://ctaginfocouncil.org/index.html>.

### RESCHEDULED INTRO TO HOPS SEMINAR THIS THURSDAY

The Connecticut Hop Growers Association (CHGA) is offering a free Introduction to Hops seminar on Thurs., Feb. 16, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, 153 Cook Hill Road, Windsor.

The seminar, rescheduled after last week's date was postponed due to the weather, will cover topics including:

- How to select farmland worthy of growing hops
- Preparing your land
- Selecting your hop varieties
- Choosing the right materials for your unique hopyard
- Resources on obtaining grant funding for farmland

Registration is not required. For questions, contact:

[cthopgrowers@yahoo.com](mailto:cthopgrowers@yahoo.com)

The CHGA quarterly board meeting will immediately follow in the same location.

### DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE AVAILABLE TO EXHIBIT AT STATE AG FAIRS

Is your fair interested in having the Connecticut Department of Agriculture exhibit at your event? If so, please submit your request by March 1 for consideration.

Please include the name of the event, date, location, set-up times, applicable fees, and contact information and send to Rebecca Eddy at [Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov).

### FARM MARKETING IS FOCUS OF HARVEST NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

Ramping up the marketing of your farm will be the focus of the Harvest New England Agricultural Marketing Conference & Trade Show, to held March 7-9 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel in Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

The theme of the 2017 conference is ***Turn Up the Volume on Your Farm Marketing!*** Attendees will experience nearly 30 workshops on topics including retail and wholesale marketing, agri-tourism, business planning, value added product development, social media and online marketing.

Go to [www.harvestnewengland.org/events](http://www.harvestnewengland.org/events) for more information. Harvest New England is a cooperative marketing program created by New England's state departments of agriculture in 1992. It has sponsored this regional conference since 2007. For more information, contact [Jaime.Smith@ct.gov](mailto:Jaime.Smith@ct.gov) at the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

**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 450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 701, Hartford, CT 06103. For more information contact [Jane.Murdock@ct.gov](mailto:Jane.Murdock@ct.gov) or call 860-713-2588.

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