

# Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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



Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
February 22, 2017



## GOVERNOR, AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER MARK START OF MAPLE SEASON WITH CEREMONIAL TREE-TAPPING

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

**HEBRON** - For a moment, the ceremonial tapping of the season's first sugar maple by the Governor almost went a little too well.

As soon as Gov. Dannel P. Malloy hammered a metal spout into the tree near Wayne Palmer's sugarhouse Tuesday afternoon, sap began flowing down the trunk and onto the snow-covered ground.

"Let's go - let's go!" the Governor urged as Palmer and Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky came to his aid with a metal collection bucket. "It's running right out of there."

"That's money on the ground," quipped Palmer, who said he chose the tree because it had reached the standard tapping diameter of 10 inches and had never been tapped.

A recently rare below-freezing overnight and temperatures pushing into the 40s on Tuesday created prime sap-flow conditions for the tapping, held to mark the traditional opening of sugaring season after President's Day.

The season typically ends in early April, when trees bud and the sap turns bitter, making it unsuitable for syrup.

Malloy said he wanted to call attention to sugaring not only to promote the quality of Connecticut maple syrup, but to encourage residents to visit a working maple operation like Palmer's Winding Brook Sugarhouse, and to events like the annual Hebron Maple Festival in March.

A fourth-generation sugarer, Palmer's place was also chosen because he is part of a state pilot program that allows producers to lease maple trees in state forests.

"We want to make this industry bigger," Malloy said as he stood in front of the sugarhouse and a knot of news media. "Wayne is an example of our effort in the state of Connecticut to extend the collection of maple sap in our forests in a more aggressive way."

Reviczky said that while interest and participation in sugaring has seen a steady increase, just a small fraction of the state's maple trees are now in production.

"We've only scratched the surface of what's available to us here and we make some of the best maple syrup anywhere in the world, right here in Connecticut," he said. "I know our producers sell everything they make. So the more access that they have to sugar maples across the state, the more we can grow this sector of Connecticut's agricultural industry."

There are nearly 200 producers in the Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut, and countless backyard hobbyists who make syrup for themselves, friends and family. Sales of maple syrup in Connecticut now approach \$2 million every year, and Connecticut syrup is a regular winner of national judging contests.

The Department of Agriculture and the maple syrup producers association publish a brochure every year listing Connecticut sugarhouses open to the public, which is available on the department's website, [www.CTGrown.gov](http://www.CTGrown.gov), and the association's website,

*(Continued on Page 3)*

**LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY**

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

|   | LOW    | HIGH   |
|---|--------|--------|
| <b>SLAUGHTER COWS</b> Avg. Dressing         |        |        |
| breakers 75-80% lean                        | 60.00  | 65.00  |
| boners 80-85% lean                          | 60.00  | 64.50  |
| lean 88-90% lean                            | 55.00  | 62.50  |
| <b>SLAUGHTER STEERS</b>                     |        |        |
| Hi Ch/Prime 3-4                             | 121.00 | 124.00 |
| Choice 2-3                                  | 116.50 | 120.00 |
| Select 1-2                                  | 115.00 | 116.00 |
| <b>SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS</b>                  |        |        |
| Hi Ch/Prime 3-4                             | 89.00  | 93.00  |
| Choice 2-3                                  | 80.00  | 85.00  |
| Sel 1-2                                     | 75.00  | 80.00  |
| <b>SLAUGHTER HEIFERS</b>                    |        |        |
| Hi Ch/Prime 3-4                             | 118.00 | 123.00 |
| Choice 2-3                                  | 113.00 | 118.50 |
| Sel 1-2                                     | 109.00 | 110.00 |
| <b>CALVES - Graded bull</b>                 |        |        |
| No 1 120-128 lbs                            | 70.00  | 70.00  |
| No 1 94-118 lbs                             | 80.00  | 86.00  |
| <b>SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled &amp; Shorn</b> |        |        |
| Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3               |        |        |
| 130-150 lbs                                 | 180.00 | 190.00 |
| 150-200 lbs                                 | 150.00 | 155.00 |
| <b>SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3</b>             |        |        |
| 120-160 lbs                                 | 90.00  | 125.00 |
| 160-200 lbs                                 | 90.00  | 120.00 |
| 200-300 lbs                                 | 87.00  | 92.00  |
| <b>SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1</b>                |        |        |
| 20-40 lbs                                   | 120.00 | 120.00 |
| 40-60 lbs                                   | 130.00 | 160.00 |
| 60-80 lbs                                   | 162.00 | 185.00 |
| 80-100 lbs                                  | 180.00 | 205.00 |
| <b>SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1</b>        |        |        |
| 80-130 lbs                                  | 165.00 | 185.00 |
| 130-180 lbs                                 | 185.00 | 235.00 |
| <b>SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1</b>       |        |        |
| 100-150 lbs                                 | 185.00 | 230.00 |
| 150-250 lbs                                 | 235.00 | 265.00 |

**DAIRY REPLACEMENT COWS**

N. Holland, PA, February 15, 2017. By the head.

**FRESH COWS:**

|          |         |         |
|----------|---------|---------|
| SUPREME  | 1625.00 | 1675.00 |
| APPROVED | 1250.00 | 1600.00 |
| MEDIUM   | 850.00  | 1250.00 |

**SPRINGING COWS (7-9 MONTHS):**

|          |         |         |
|----------|---------|---------|
| APPROVED | 1250.00 | 1500.00 |
| MEDIUM   | 850.00  | 1125.00 |

**BRED COWS (4-6 MONTHS):**

|          |         |         |
|----------|---------|---------|
| APPROVED | 1000.00 | 1100.00 |
|----------|---------|---------|

**SHORT BRED COWS (1-3 MONTHS):**

|          |         |         |
|----------|---------|---------|
| APPROVED | 1000.00 | 1150.00 |
|----------|---------|---------|

**SPRINGING HEIFERS (7-9 MONTHS):**

|          |         |         |
|----------|---------|---------|
| SUPREME  | 1525.00 | 1600.00 |
| APPROVED | 1250.00 | 1475.00 |
| MEDIUM   | 950.00  | 1250.00 |

**BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS):**

|          |         |         |
|----------|---------|---------|
| APPROVED | 1100.00 | 1225.00 |
| MEDIUM   | 800.00  | 925.00  |

**OPEN HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS):**

|                    |        |        |
|--------------------|--------|--------|
| <b>100-300 LBS</b> |        |        |
| APPROVED           | 375.00 | 425.00 |
| MEDIUM             | 135.00 | 310.00 |
| <b>300-600 LBS</b> |        |        |
| APPROVED           | 575.00 | 800.00 |
| <b>600-900 LBS</b> |        |        |
| APPROVED           | 800.00 | 935.00 |
| MEDIUM             | 300.00 | 550.00 |

**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 |

**VERMONT WINTER FARMERS' MARKET**

\$ per lb, or as noted.

|                  |       |       |
|------------------|-------|-------|
| LAMB CHOPS       | 12.00 | 18.00 |
| RACK OF LAMB     | 18.00 | 18.00 |
| LEG OF LAMB      | 12.00 | 15.00 |
| GROUND LAMB      | 10.00 | 11.00 |
| GROUND BEEF      | 6.25  | 9.00  |
| RIBEYE           | 14.00 | 19.00 |
| SIRLOIN          | 8.00  | 12.00 |
| ROUND ROAST      | 8.00  | 10.00 |
| CHUCK ROAST      | 8.00  | 10.00 |
| STRIP STEAK      | 14.00 | 22.00 |
| SKIRT STEAK      | 9.00  | 12.00 |
| TENDERLOINS      | 18.00 | 23.00 |
| EGGS (PER DOZEN) | 4.00  | 6.00  |
| WHOLE CHICKENS   | 2.00  | 5.50  |
| TURKEY           | 4.00  | 4.00  |
| GROUND PORK      | 6.25  | 8.00  |
| PORK CHOPS       | 6.00  | 12.00 |
| PORK LOIN        | 7.00  | 12.00 |
| PORK TENDERLOIN  | 10.00 | 18.00 |
| SHOULDER ROAST   | 5.00  | 10.00 |
| HAM              | 8.00  | 9.00  |
| BABY BACK RIBS   | 8.00  | 13.00 |
| SAUSAGE          | 9.00  | 9.00  |
| BACON            | 8.00  | 10.00 |

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT - February 20, 2017

|                     | LOW    | HIGH   |
|---------------------|--------|--------|
| Bob Calves:         |        |        |
| 45-60 lbs.          | 36.00  | 41.00  |
| 61-75 lbs.          | 42.00  | 52.50  |
| 76-90 lbs.          | 50.00  | 52.50  |
| 91-105 lbs.         | 55.00  | 59.00  |
| 106 lbs. & up       | 60.00  | 65.00  |
| Farm Calves         | 115.00 | 150.00 |
| Starter Calves      | 28.00  | 32.00  |
| Veal Calves         | 55.00  | 90.00  |
| Feeder Heifers      | 61.00  | 95.00  |
| Beef Heifers        | 87.50  | 108.00 |
| Feeder Steers       | n/a    | n/a    |
| Beef Steers         | 86.00  | 113.50 |
| Feeder Bulls        | 62.00  | 120.00 |
| Beef Bulls          | 62.00  | 90.50  |
| Replacement Cows    | n/a    | n/a    |
| Replacement Heifers | n/a    | n/a    |
| Boars               | n/a    | n/a    |
| Sows                | 22.50  | 25.00  |
| Butcher Hogs        | 24.00  | 46.00  |
| Feeder Pigs each    | 10.00  | 150.00 |
| Sheep, each         | 135.00 | 255.00 |
| Lambs each          | 90.00  | 260.00 |
| Goats each          | 125.00 | 385.00 |
| Kid Goats each      | 85.00  | 135.00 |
| Canners             | up to  | 62.50  |
| Cutters             | 63.50  | 66.00  |
| Utility Grade Cows  | 67.00  | 70.00  |
| Rabbits each        | 10.00  | 35.00  |
| Chickens each       | 3.00   | 40.00  |
| Ducks each          | 5.00   | 35.00  |

**NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA**

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

|            |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|
| XTRA LARGE | .63 | .80 |
| LARGE      | .57 | .71 |
| MEDIUM     | .47 | .60 |

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**

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

|            |      |      |
|------------|------|------|
| XTRA LARGE | 1.11 | 1.20 |
| LARGE      | 1.04 | 1.15 |
| MEDIUM     | .69  | .79  |
| SMALL      | .56  | .66  |

**NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION**

Avg dressing. Per cwt.

|              |             |       |       |
|--------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| 52-56        | 200-300 lbs | 62.00 | 68.00 |
|              | 300-350 lbs | 63.00 | 66.00 |
| 48-52        | 200-300 lbs | 50.50 | 64.00 |
|              | 300-350 lbs | 44.00 | 55.00 |
|              | 350-400 lbs | 45.00 | 48.00 |
| Sows, US 1-3 | 300-500 lbs | 28.00 | 32.00 |
|              | 500-800 lbs | 29.00 | 30.50 |
| Boars        | 400-800 lbs | 5.00  | 5.00  |

**ORGANIC POULTRY AND WHOLESALE EGGS**

Price range is per unit as labeled.

|                     |      |       |
|---------------------|------|-------|
| EXTRA LARGE         |      |       |
| DOZEN               | 2.61 | 3.60  |
| 1/2 DOZEN           | 1.80 | 1.95  |
| LARGE               |      |       |
| DOZEN               | 2.30 | 3.50  |
| 1/2 DOZEN           | 1.71 | 1.90  |
| WHOLE FRYER, PER LB | 1.71 | 3.32  |
| BNLS BREAST, PER LB | 5.69 | 10.58 |
| B/IN                | 3.60 | 6.16  |



(Continued from Page 1)

[www.ctmaple.org](http://www.ctmaple.org).

The Department also will be promoting maple syrup during March on radio, social media and other outlets.

"Agritourism is a growing part of our tourism sector," Tim Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner of the state Dept. of Economic and Community Development, said at the event. "Whether it's maple sugar or farm wineries or orchards, it attracts a lot of visitors to our state."

Before tapping the sugar maple, Malloy toured Palmer's sugarhouse, where the centerpiece is an enormous sap evaporator that he recently converted from wood-burning to oil-fired.

While it used to burn up to a cord of wood a day during heavy production, and take about to 2 ½ hours to heat to the desired 800-degrees, the revamped boiler now gets up to the proper heat level in just 12 minutes.

Sampling some of Palmer's dark-amber syrup out of a tiny paper cup next to the steaming evaporator, Malloy declared: "Wow - that's good stuff. That's great," before buying a quart to take home.

The governor also asked a series of questions about the production process and the various grades of syrup.

"Early in the year you'll tend to make lighter syrup because the tree is sweeter – there's more sugar in it," explained Palmer, who beside selling syrup from his home also sells to a local restaurant for use in a glazed-salmon dish and to a local shop that uses it to make maple ice cream.

#### 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.

"As the year progresses we're depleting the sugar in the tree, and because the sugar content drops we spend more time boiling the sap. The longer the syrup spends in the evaporator, the darker it's going to get."

Palmer is a fairly large producer who taps about 1,000 trees using traditional metal collection buckets, and has about five miles of plastic tubing stretched across 15 acres of sugarbush in nearby Meshomasic State Forest, which drain into a large central collection tank.

"You know, another five miles of tubing and you could be producing more," Malloy gently prodded Palmer.

"Give us the land," Palmer replied with a laugh, "and I'll buy the tubing."

#### CT SHEEP, WOOL AND FIBER FESTIVAL COMING IN APRIL

The festival will be held Saturday April 29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Tolland Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon.

This agricultural learning experience features fiber art demonstrations and workshops, a fleece sale, herding dog demonstrations, sheep shearing and fleece skirting.

More than 75 premier fiber vendors offer an elaborate variety of handicrafts. Spinning Bee contest, live music, fiber animal displays—llama, alpaca, rabbits and more!

Admission is free, and food and a kids activity/craft corner are also available. Parking is \$5 a car.

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)





Page 1: Gov. Dannel P. Malloy taps a maple tree flanked by producer Wayne Palmer (L) and Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky, who also joined the Governor in a tour of Palmer's sugarhouse, (above and below right), where jars of syrup (below) are displayed on a windowsill.



### FREE ONE-ON-ONE ADVISING SESSIONS FOR FARMERS

A cooperative program of UConn Extension, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, and the Risk Management Agency/USDA offers free one-on-one advising for farmers throughout this coming spring.

One-on-One sessions provide the opportunity to sit down in a confidential setting with an agri-business professional for up to one hour to discuss farm related questions, concerns, and techniques to help agribusinesses succeed. New topics this year include: Farm Business and Marketing, Farm Marketing via Communication and Social Media, Introduction for Veterans in Agriculture, and Agritourism.

Complete information is at <http://ctfarmrisk.uconn.edu/one-on-one.php>

To register, contact [Mackenzie.white@uconn.edu](mailto:Mackenzie.white@uconn.edu) or call 860-875-3331 Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The sessions will be held between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the following locations and dates:

- March 4/ CT Farm Bureau Office, Wethersfield,
- March 13/ Middlesex Cty. Ext. Center, Haddam
- March 25/ Common Ground High School, New Haven
- March 30/ New London Cty. Ext. Center, Norwich
- April 10/ Wamogo High School, Litchfield
- April 18 - Fairfield Cty. Ext. Center, Bethel



#### CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE www.CTGrown.gov 860-713-2500

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 450 Columbus Blvd. Suite 701, Hartford CT 06103.

Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2017.

VOL. XCVII, No. 8, February 22, 2017

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
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