

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
January 31, 2017



COUPLE STRETCHING THE GROWING, SELLING SEASON WITH DISTINCTIVE ROOT CROPS

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

OLD LYME - Baylee Drown didn't just start offering exotic-sounding Purple Haze carrots, Moneta beets and Hakurei turnips to her customers without giving it some thought.

"We get excited to try new things but you have to be careful," she said Monday after pulling those and other root vegetables out of the soil under a high tunnel at her Upper Pond Farm. "You can't just grow what you like as a farmer. You have to grow what your customers like."

But her instincts were right, especially regarding the popularity of the Purple Haze, whose eye-catching dark skin rich in antioxidants recalls the original color of carrots cultivated in Afghanistan 5,000 years ago.

"People go nuts for them," said Drown, who with husband Ryan Quinn runs a CSA, wholesales and sells at farmers' markets, including the Coventry Winter Farmers' Market. "I tried a lot of varieties and these were the best. I don't know why everyone isn't growing some."

In their fourth year of growing organic vegetables and edible flowers on a total of about five acres at their property in Lyme and some leased land a few miles away in Old Lyme, the couple is focused on lengthening the growing season in their three large high tunnels, which allow them to offer all sorts of greens and freshly-dug root

crops during a season when those items are typically scarce.

"I love growing vegetables in the winter because people really crave this stuff this time of year," Drown said. "Other people have carrots and things that they harvested in November or December. They're fine to eat but they're not as sweet as the ones that come right out of the ground."

She believes many of her winter crops actually taste better than the same variety harvested in warmer months. "When it's cold the plant sends sugar into itself so the cells don't freeze," she said. "It's like antifreeze in your car."

Many crops expectedly take longer to mature in winter, depending on the temperature and amount of sunlight. The Hakurei turnips, a Japanese variety with a crispy texture that can be eaten raw in salads, takes up to three times longer to mature in winter than the 38 days in summer.

"But no one else is going to have Hakureis in a month when we go back to the market," said Drown, who was raised on a Michigan dairy farm and was first exposed to growing vegetables through a former job managing livestock at a farm run by Green



(Continued on Page 3)

LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	58.00	63.00
boners 80-85% lean	57.00	62.50
lean 88-90% lean	55.00	60.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	116.00	119.00
Choice 2-3	113.50	116.50
Select 1-2	110.00	113.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4 few	94.00	96.00
Choice 2-3	82.00	87.00
Sel 1-2	76.00	81.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime3-4	113.00	116.00
Choice 2-3	110.00	113.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 98-120 lbs	95.00	105.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
90-110 lbs	184.00	227.00
110-130 lbs	152.00	192.00
130-150 lbs	150.00	160.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
120-160 lbs	100.00	120.00
160-200 lbs	90.00	120.00
200-300 lbs	77.00	90.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
20-40 lbs	115.00	135.00
40-60 lbs	150.00	170.00
60-80 lbs	160.00	195.00
80-100 lbs	190.00	205.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	165.00	200.00
130-180 lbs	195.00	240.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
80-100 lbs	220.00	245.00
150-250 lbs	270.00	310.00

DAIRY REPLACEMENT COWS

New Holland, PA, January 30, 2017. By the head.

FRESH COWS:

SUPREME	1500.00	1625.00
APPROVED	1250.00	1475.00
MEDIUM	850.00	1175.00

SPRINGING COWS (7-9 MONTHS):

APPROVED	1350.00	1350.00
MEDIUM	1000.00	1075.00

SPRINGING HEIFERS (7-9 MONTHS)

SUPREME	1450.00	1525.00
APPROVED	1100.00	1375.00
MEDIUM	800.00	1125.00

BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS):

APPROVED	1025.00	1225.00
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NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Avg dressing. Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	52.00	62.00
	300-350 lbs	57.00	62.00
	350-450 lbs	41.00	52.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	45.00	56.00
	350-450 lbs	31.00	41.00
Sows, US 1-3	300-500 lbs	27.00	30.00
	500-800 lbs	29.00	34.00
Boars	300-400 lbs	4.00	7.00
	400-800 lbs	4.00	6.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLESBoston 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,CRTLND,XF,12-3LB,2-1/2"	21.00	21.00
APPLE,GALA,FCY,12-3LB,2-1/2"	20.00	20.00
APPLE,HNYCRSP,XFCY,80	70.00	70.00
APPLE,HNYCRSP,XFCY,88	70.00	70.00
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"	28.00	28.00
APPLES,MAC,#1,CELPK,120	18.00	18.00
APPLES,MAC,#1,CELPK,140	18.00	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,1/2 BU	15.00	16.00
PARSNIPS,FILM BAG,20 LBS	22.00	22.00
PARSNIPS,18-1 LB	20.00	20.00
POTATO,RNDRED,#1,SZA,50LB	14.00	16.00
POTATO,RNDRED,#1,SBZ,50LB	18.00	18.00
POTATO,RNDWT,#1,CHEF,50LB	10.00	12.00
POTATO,RNDWT,#1,10LB FILM	2.25	2.25
POTATO,RUSST,#1,10 OZ,50LB	11.00	11.00
POTATO,YELLOW,#1,SZA,50LB	13.00	13.00
POTATO,YELLOW,#1,SBZ,50LB	16.00	16.00
POTATO,YLLW,#1,CHEF,50LB	14.00	14.00
SQUASH,ACORN,MED 1-1/9	14.00	14.00
SQUASH,BUTTERNUT,M,1-1/9	14.00	16.00
SQUASH,BUTRNT,ACORN,1/LB	.85	1.05
SQUASH,KABOCHA,SM,1-1/9	14.00	14.00
TOM,GHSE,CHRRYONVINE,5LB	10.00	14.00
TOMATO,GHSE HEIRLM,10 LB	23.00	25.00
TOMATO,GHSE,LOOSE,25 LB	15.00	15.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT

January 30, 2017. Per small square.

ALFALFA		
Good	185.00	240.00
Fair one load	140.00	140.00
ALFALFA/GRASS		
Supreme	355.00	360.00
Premium	260.00	335.00
Good	180.00	270.00
Fair	90.00	170.00
GRASS HAYS		
Premium	315.00	335.00
Good	205.00	265.00
Fair	100.00	170.00
Utility one load	70.00	70.00
STRAW	135.00	190.00

WHOLESALE BROWN ORGANIC EGGS

Price per unit in dollars to first receivers.

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

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - January 30, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	25.00	29.00
61-75 lbs.	30.00	35.00
76-90 lbs.	37.50	40.00
91-105 lbs.	41.00	44.00
106 lbs. & up	45.00	48.00
Farm Calves	n/a	n/a
Starter Calves	25.00	30.00
Veal Calves	65.00	110.00
Feeder Heifers	85.00	105.00
Beef Heifers	59.00	68.00
Feeder Steers	50.00	75.00
Beef Steers	99.00	103.00
Feeder Bulls	60.00	115.00
Beef Bulls	78.00	85.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	20.00	30.00
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	n/a	n/a
Sheep, each	110.00	250.00
Lambs each	100.00	150.00
Goats each	147.00	300.00
Kid Goats each	65.00	110.00
Canners	up to	57.50
Cutters	58.00	61.00
Utility Grade Cows	62.00	65.00
Rabbits each	8.00	26.00
Chickens each	3.00	27.50
Ducks each	9.00	16.00

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDAPer doz. Grade A and Grade A white
in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	.82	1.00
LARGE	.76	.90
MEDIUM	.63	.76

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGSPer doz. Grade A brown in
carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.27	1.37
LARGE	1.21	1.31
MEDIUM	.82	.92
SMALL	.58	.68

GRADED FEEDER PIG AUCTION

CARLISLE, PA

January 23, 2017

US 1-2		
28 lbs	190.00	190.00
36-39 lbs	122.00	140.00
48 lbs	106.00	106.00
57-60 lbs	98.00	32.00
63-69 lbs	80.00	90.00
73-79 lbs	64.00	88.00
88 lbs	65.00	65.00
94-97 lbs	84.00	98.00
125-136 lbs	80.00	85.00
107-149 lbs	41.00	60.00

US 2

18 lbs	280.00	280.00
26-29 lbs	210.00	230.00
33-39 lbs	120.00	185.00
40-48 lbs	84.00	110.00
60-65 lbs	60.00	100.00
76 lbs	70.00	70.00

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Mountain College in Vermont.

She and Ryan, (better known as Quinn), married last fall and will soon be taking a semi-break for a few weeks to recharge themselves and allow many of their current crops to get to market size.

They'll also use that time to evaluate the results of the past year, and to start planning what new plants and growing techniques they will try in the upcoming season.

"This farm is an evolution and we're always experimenting," Drown said.

Their root crops are now grown under row covers in the high tunnels, but Drown said that might be overkill, especially given the relatively mild winters of late.

"Yesterday it was 40 degrees outside and it was 80 degrees in here," she said inside a high tunnel. "We had to open up some doors because it was too hot."

A recent change has been the purchase of a walk-behind tractor that is one of the few machines used at the farm, where they plow with horses and are committed to using human power whenever feasible.

One experiment that didn't work was an attempt to grow tomatoes last winter in 5-gallon buckets placed in a heated portion of a high tunnel.

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.

7-R. Beeswax; 1 oz., 6 oz., 1 lb, and 2 lb blocks. Pure CT Grown cappings wax, Full Bloom Apiaries, 860-235-0624.

8-R. For Sale: Straw mulch for bedding, construction. \$4.00 per bale. 2013 John Deere 2-row corn planter. New condition. \$9,000.00. Franklin Can-Car cable log skidder. \$11,900.00. Bellavance Farm 860-564-5717.

9-R. For Sale: Agricultural equipment and supplies, including feeders, waterers, scales, chutes, gates, and headlocks. SVF Sales 860-749-4795.

11-R. Dried chicken manure delivered by trailer load. J.D. 3430 tractor. Fruehaus aluminum dump trailer. 860-537-1974.

12-R. 40' box storage trailers. \$1,000.00 each. Goats, Kiko/Saranna. Does and bucks. Call 860-537-1974.

13-R. Modine Efficiency 93 propane greenhouse heater model PTC 215 215,000 BTU/Hr. Still in box-never used. Includes hanger kit. \$2,000.00. 203-457-1304.

15-R. Farm Bakery Equipment for sale: Southbend Silver Series Double Convection Oven, Sheet pans and racks, True brand Stainless Steel work top 2 door freezer, True brand Stainless Steel work top 3 door refrigerator, Commercial Chest Freezer, Ice Cream Case, Curved Glass refrigerated or dry display case, True brand 2 door Cooler. Coffee Bar equipment, Soup Station equipment, Wooden Crates & Baskets, Misc. Floral Items. Phone/Text 860.601.1942.

16-R. Coffee bar equipment, soup station equipment, wooden crates and baskets, miscellaneous floral items. Phone/text 860-601-1942.

"They were kind of mealy, and that's not what we want to be known for," said Drown, who evaluates the cost-effectiveness of every new crop or attempted improvement made at the farm. "A lot of people get into farming with passion but you also have to be a businessperson."

She and Ryan are now working toward buying farmland on Beaver Brook Road in Lyme.

Their business plan also will continue to include introducing, but not overwhelming, their customers with unusual varieties of vegetables.

"You have to give people what they want and are familiar with but also keep it a little interesting," she said. "No more than one weird thing a week."

Root vegetables are the Dept. of Agriculture's monthly featured specialty crop for February.

Promotions include spots on iHeartRadio, Pandora, Bomba, and social media.

Visit www.ctgrown.gov/rootveggies to find a list of farms and download a poster and go to Pinterest.com/GrowCTAg for delicious recipe ideas.

17-R. Greenhouses for sale; (2) 26'x80' Poly Hoop Houses. You remove in the next 30 days cost is \$5K each or both for \$8,500.00. Plastic on one house only. Wiggle wire tracking, end doors, truss system for added support. 4' Hoop Spacing. These houses were custom manufactured in Connecticut. You will not find higher quality structures. Phone 860.307.5221.

20-R. Beef calves – Angus and Angus cross born 2016 and older breed heifers. Call Diane 860-302-9149.

21. Army diesel 6x6 M36 truck (LWB). \$3,000.00. Army trailers. Also, D8-CAT. 203-598-0807.

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.

WANTED

10-R. Standing timber wanted. Hardwood/softwood, especially sugar maple/white oak. Top prices paid. Licensed and insured. 10 acre minimum. 860-798-4039.

18-R. Boulder Knoll Community Farm in Cheshire is seeking a Farm Manager to manage and implement production, maintenance, harvest and distribution of vegetables to CSA members and food charities. Information: www.friendsofboulderknoll.com/hiring or [in-fo@friendsofboulderknoll.com](mailto:info@friendsofboulderknoll.com)

19-R. Small lower Fairfield County farm seeks the services of an experienced farmer seeking fulltime live-in employment. Successful applicant will have extensive NE farming experience either practical or educational, including all facets of vegetable, berry, orchard farming and animal husbandry. Experience with farm equipment, operation, maintenance, pesticides, fertilizers, greenhouse, farmers' markets, and farm stand operation. Salary and benefits, including on-farm housing for up to a family of four included. For information to apply, please email: Jasmine@summitdevelopment.com

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 or 203-641-1632.

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.

Dig In CONNECTICUT GROWN ROOT VEGETABLES



Above: A graphic that is part of the Dept. of Agriculture's promotion of root crops in February.

Left: Baylee Drown walking to one of her high tunnels on farmland leased in Old Lyme.

Page 1 top: Some of the root crops Drown picked Monday were (L to R), Hakurei turnips, Moneta beets, Purple Haze carrots and celeriac.

Page 1 bottom: Drown harvesting celeriac in one of her high tunnels.

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>.

FREE INTRO TO HOPS SEMINAR NEXT WEEK

The Connecticut Hop Growers Association (CHGA) is offering a free Introduction to Hops seminar on Feb. 9, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, 153 Cook Hill Road, Windsor.

The seminar 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

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

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 Ave., Suite 701, Hartford CT 06103. For more information contact Jane.Murdock@ct.gov or call 860-713-2588.

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