

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
June 28, 2017



Left: Doug Baggott holding an ear of corn on left whose dried silk indicates it is ripe for picking, and one on right that is not quite ready. Right: Baggott tasting an ear to check its sweetness.

COOL, RAINY SPRING DELAYS EARLY CORN HARVEST FOR MOST CONNECTICUT GROWERS

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

GRANBY - While the cool, wet spring will delay the early sweet corn harvest for most Connecticut growers past the traditional July 4th opening, the extra steps taken by Doug Baggott in planting his crop nearly three months ago are paying off as the holiday approaches.

Walking a 5-acre field today that he planted on April 8 and intends to start harvesting on Friday, Baggott said the crop of Espresso and Temptation varieties would not be ready if he had not planted under a double-layer of clear plastic mulch and mesh fabric row covers.

"Most growers use one or the other but I don't know of anybody else that uses both," he said. "The clear plastic heats up the soil and makes it grow faster and the row cover keeps off the frost and heats up the air like a greenhouse. It's just been a cold rainy year and this year the extra investment is paying off."

Only a handful of farms in the state raise early corn in hopes of having it ready for Independence Day barbecues and picnics.

Baggott, who supplies a network of farm stands in the area but does not sell retail, said he typically is ready to harvest by June 25, and has had fields ready as early as June 18.

This year, most of the other early growers, including

his father Tom Baggott, likely won't be able to harvest until a day or two after the holiday.

But with July 4th coming on a Tuesday this year, Doug Baggott said it may create a period of demand over a stretch of several days beginning this week-end. He expects his 12 acres of early corn will be picked out by late next week.

"It could be a party all week long," he said with a chuckle.

Beside the row covers and plastic mulch, actually made of biodegradable corn starch, Baggott said he plants his early corn in fields whose dry, sandy soil drains well and heats up more quickly than others.

He uses a special corn planter implement that burns a hole in the mulch and inserts the seed in the soil. Row covers are taken off when the corn reaches about waist-high and starts to pollinate.

"The corn pretty much pushes it off as it grows," he said.

He also plants another 100 acres of "Super Sweet" varieties that won't be ripe until after Labor Day, as well as broadleaf tobacco and vegetables including eggplant and peppers.

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LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	73.00	78.50
boners 80-85% lean	72.00	78.50
lean 88-90% lean	67.00	74.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	126.50	129.00
Choice 2-3	124.00	127.50
Select 1-2	113.00	127.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Hi Choice/Prime 3-4	105.00	110.00
Choice 2-3	96.00	100.00
Sel 1-2	91.00	94.50
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	120.00	123.00
Choice 2-3	117.00	118.00
Sel 1-2	112.00	114.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 90-130 lbs	180.00	197.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
60-80 lbs	227.00	250.00
80-100 lbs	222.00	249.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice 2-3		
40-60 lbs	170.00	215.00
60-80 lbs	195.00	217.00
80-110 lbs	175.00	225.00
110-130 lbs	185.00	205.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
110-160 lbs	70.00	125.00
200-250 lbs	70.00	102.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
40-60 lbs	150.00	160.00
60-80 lbs	165.00	200.00
80-100 lbs	185.00	205.00
100-120 lbs	220.00	220.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
130-170 lbs	210.00	260.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
145 lbs	290.00	290.00
150-250 lbs	230.00	335.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Avg dressing. Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	60.00	64.00
	300-350 lbs	57.00	63.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	57.00	60.00
Sows, US 1-3	300-500 lbs	49.00	50.00
	500-800 lbs	40.00	43.50
Boars	400-750 lbs	5.00	5.00

USDA WHOLESALE CUTFLOWERS

June 27, 2017. \$/pack as noted

ALLIUM, STEM, NL	3.50	4.50
ALSTROEMERIA, 10/BN, CD	7.50	8.50
ASTILBE, 10/BN, NL, LONG	13.50	15.00
DAHLIA, 5/BN, CA, LONG	15.00	15.00
DELPHINIUM, 10/BN, CA, LONG	12.50	12.50
GERBERA, STD, STEM, CD, L	1.20	1.35
GLAD, STD, 10/BN, CA, LONG	12.00	15.00
HYDRANGEA, STEM, CB, SHRT	1.85	4.95
IRIS, DUTCH, 10/BN, CA, L	6.50	7.50
LILIES, ASIA, /BN, CA, LONG	13.50	15.00
PEONY, 10/BN, NJ, LONG	20.00	25.00
QUEEN ANNE LACE, /BN, CA, L	8.50	9.50
ROSE, GARDEN, /STEM, NL L	3.50	3.95
SNAPDRAGON, 10/BN, CD, EXL	12.50	13.50
SUNFLOWER, 5/BN, NENG, L	5.00	5.00
YARROW, YLW, /BN, CA, L	8.50	8.50

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
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEETS, RED, 12 CT	18.00	18.00
BEETS, GOLD, 12 CT	18.00	18.00
CABBAGE, GRN, 50 LB, 1-3/4BU	16.00	16.00
CIDER, APPLE, 4-1 GALLON	21.00	22.00
CIDER, APPLE, 9-1/2 GALLON	22.50	25.00
COLLARDS, 1-3/5 BU	12.00	12.00
KALE, GREEN, 1 BU, 12 BN	12.00	18.00
LETTUCES, GRN, RED LF, 24	15.00	20.00
LETTUCE, BOSTON, 24	15.00	20.00
PEAS, ENGLISH, BU	60.00	80.00
PEAS, ENGLISH, 25 LBS	45.00	45.00
PEAS, SNAP, /LB	2.00	2.00
PEAS, SNAP, BU	20.00	20.00
PEAS, SUGAR, BU	20.00	20.00
PEAS, SUGAR, /LB	2.00	2.00
SWISS CHARD, GRN, 12 CT	18.00	18.00
SWISS CHARD, RAINBOW, 12CT	18.00	18.00
RADISHES, 24 CT	16.00	16.00
RHUBARB, OPN FIELD, 20 LB	35.00	36.00
SQUASH, GREEN, 1/2 BU	18.00	18.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, 1/2 BU	16.00	16.00
STRAWBERRIES, 8-1QT	33.00	33.00
TOMS, GHS, CHRRY, 8-10 OZ	20.00	24.00
TOMS, GHS, 15 LB FLAT	17.00	18.00
TOMS, GHS, 25 LBS, LOOSE	15.00	20.00
TOMS, GHS, 11 LBS, ON VINE	11.00	12.00

SHIPPED IN

BEAN, GREEN, GA, MACHPK, BU	34.00	36.00
BEANS, FAVA, NJ, BU	42.00	45.00
BLACKBRY, GA, 12-6OZ	22.00	22.00
BLACKBRY, ORG., CA, 12-6OZ	34.00	34.00
BLUEBERRIES, NJ, 12-1 PT	24.00	26.00
BOK CHOY, NJ, 2 BU	22.00	26.00
BOKCHOY, SHANGHAI, NJ, 10 LB	14.00	16.00
CABBAGE, RED, NJ, 50 LBS	22.00	24.00
CABBAGE, SAVOY, NJ, 1-3/4	24.00	26.00
CARROTS, BUNCHED, CA, 24	19.00	21.00
CAULIFLOWER, CA, 12	21.00	25.00
CHRRY, RANIER, WA, 15LB, 9-1/2	75.00	75.00
CHIN CABBAGE, NJ, 50 LB, 12	22.00	28.00
CORN, GA, 4-1/2 DOZ	13.00	15.00
CUKE, NJ, MEDIUM, 1-1/9	34.00	38.00
CUKE, PICKL, NJ, 150-200, 1-1/9	28.00	35.00
CUKE, PICKL, NJ, 200-300, 1-1/9	35.00	40.00
DANDELION GRNS, NJ, 12 BN	16.00	18.00
EGGPLANT, GA, LARGE, 1-1/9	14.00	16.00
ENDIVE, NJ, 1.3 BU, 24	15.00	18.00
ESCAROLE, NJ, 1.3 BU, 24	15.00	18.00
FIG, CA, BLK MSSN, 12-1PT	36.00	36.00
KOHLRABI, NJ, 12 BN, 1-3/5	18.00	18.00
LETT, BSTN, GHS, TN, 12- 4 OZ	16.00	17.00
LEEKS, NJ, 12	16.00	18.00
PARSLEY, CURLY, NJ, 60	28.00	32.00
PARSLEY, PLAIN, NJ, 60	34.00	36.00
PEPPERS, CBNLLE, 1-1/9, M	21.00	22.00
PEPPER, JALAPENO, NJ, 1/2 BU	14.00	17.00
SPINACH, FLAT, CTN, NJ, 24	22.00	24.00
TURNIPS, PRPL TOP, NJ, 25LB	10.00	14.00
TURNIP TOP GREENS, GA, 12	14.00	16.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - June 26, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	35.00	40.00
61-75 lbs.	95.00	105.00
76-90 lbs.	115.00	125.00
91-105 lbs.	130.00	135.00
106 lbs. & up	140.00	145.00
Farm Calves	147.50	150.00
Starter Calves	50.00	60.00
Veal Calves	87.50	175.00
Feeder Heifers	89.00	140.00
Beef Heifers	87.00	97.00
Feeder Steers	100.00	105.00
Beef Steers	76.00	109.00
Feeder Bulls	140.00	180.00
Beef Bulls	95.00	100.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	1@	24.00
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	n/a	n/a
Sheep each	82.00	105.00
Lambs each	90.00	220.00
Goats each	97.50	270.00
Kid Goats each	90.00	165.00
Canners	up to	70.00
Cutters	71.00	74.00
Utility Grade Cows	75.00	78.00
Rabbits each	5.00	30.00
Chickens each	3.00	17.00
Ducks each	8.00	13.00

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

XTRA LARGE	.69	.84
LARGE	.63	.77
MEDIUM	.50	.63

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

XTRA LARGE	1.19	1.29
LARGE	1.09	1.19
MEDIUM	.78	.89
SMALL	.48	.58

DAIRY REPLACEMENT COWS

Sold by the head.

FRESH COWS:		
SUPREME	1650.00	1750.00
APPROVED	1300.00	1675.00
MEDIUM	850.00	1275.00
SPRINGING COWS (7-9 MONTHS):		
SUPREME	1500.00	1525.00
APPROVED	1025.00	1475.00
MEDIUM	925.00	1025.00
CULL COWS	425.00	1300.00
SPRINGING HEIFERS (7-9 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	1250.00	1600.00
MEDIUM	1025.00	1100.00
BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS):		
SUPREME	1500.00	1650.00
APPROVED	1100.00	1550.00
MEDIUM	850.00	1125.00
SHORT BRED HEIFERS (1-3 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	1025.00	1375.00
MEDIUM	875.00	1000.00

(Continued from Page 1)

And while having a reliable supply of early corn is a bonus for his customers, it also provides an early-season benefit for his operation.

"In farming you're always putting cash out, putting cash out," he said. "This is the first time of the season it comes back."

Agricultural Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said most early-corn customers in Connecticut are probably unaware of the work and investment it takes to bring a freshly-picked product to market in the state's climate.

"There is plenty of sweet corn available this time of year that is shipped in from the South and is likely a week old or more by the time it is eaten," he said. "But for those seeking the superior taste and texture that only a freshly-picked ear can provide, they should be thankful for those farmers who go the extra mile to provide Connecticut Grown sweet corn."

JUNE 30 DEADLINE TO RECEIVE 2017 USDA CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

WASHINGTON – New farmers and those not previously contacted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), have until the end of June to ensure they are represented in this year's Census of Agriculture.

To receive a census questionnaire this December, these producers are asked to visit the Census of Agriculture website at www.agcensus.usda.gov and click on the 'Make Sure You Are Counted' button.

While on the website, producers can [watch the census introduction video](#), access frequently asked questions, explore past and current data, and try the improved online census questionnaire demo.

The updated online questionnaire, which will go live late fall, is now accessible on any electronic device.

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.

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.

New features save time by calculating totals automatically and skipping questions that do not pertain to the respondent's operation.

Producers who are uncertain whether they classify as a farm should note that the census definition is any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year (2017).

At 177 years old, the Census of Agriculture tells the story of U.S. agriculture. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive and impartial agricultural data for every county in the nation.

The data are valuable to those who serve farmers and rural communities, including federal, state and local governments, agribusinesses, trade associations, extension educators, researchers, even farmers and ranchers themselves.

Census results help shape farm programs and boost services for communities and the industry, making it a farmer's voice, future, and opportunity.

For more information about the 2017 Census of Agriculture, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call 800-727-9540



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

71-R. 3 Point Hitch tow behind DR Trimmer Mower. Used 3 times. \$700.00. Woods Backhoe Model 750 attachment. \$3,000.00. Call Ken 203-592-6530.

72-R. Reg. Hereford bulls and cow calf pairs for sale. Call for pricing 860-250-3311.

WANTED

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

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.

CAES HOPS SUMMER MEETING JULY 12

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) Hops Summer Meeting and Field Day will be held Tuesday, July 12, 2017 at 1 p.m. at the Valley Laboratory, 153 Cook Hill Road, Windsor

Topics at the meeting, co-hosted by the Connecticut Hops Growers Association, will include updates on research projects, Integrated Pest Management of hop pests, economic aspects of hop yard establishment, barley production and malting, and information on hop quality testing.

Talks will be followed by a tour of the research hop yard and a question and answer period. More details will follow as the program develops.

The meeting will qualify for 3.25 pesticide applicator re-certification credits. Those interested in obtaining credit should be sure to have their license number available at the meeting.

**NEW ENGLAND/CT OBSERVATIONS FROM THE USDA/NASS CROP PROGRESS & CONDITION REPORT FOR 6/18 THROUGH 6/25**

New England averaged 5 days suitable for field work last week. Off and on rain showers were reported throughout the region.

Average weekly temperatures ranged from 1 degree below to 10 degrees above normal. Weekly precipitation ranged from 0.11 to 4.45 inches throughout the region. Growing conditions of crops was reported as near perfect but continuous rainfall has made it difficult to harvest hay.

Some fields were still reported as too wet for heavy farm equipment, but farmers were working around and harvesting hay where they can without damaging soil. Early corn was reported as tasseling.

Vegetables were reported as growing well with all the rain as well; peas, asparagus, zucchini, summer squash and greens harvested reported in many areas. Strawberry harvest continued throughout the region. Producers report very good yield and excellent quality.

Field activities for the week included tillage, side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating, mowing weeds, as well as equipment repair and maintenance.

CONNECTICUT

- **LITCHFIELD COUNTY/Richard Meinert**

Second cut of haylage is coming off before the last of the first cutting in order to get the best feed value. Some corn still waiting for workable field conditions. Spotty showers brought significant rainfall in short bursts.

- **NEW LONDON COUNTY/Sarah Woodward**

Raspberry season has begun. Veggie farmers picking strawberries, garlic scapes, lettuce mix, beets and the first few zucchini and summer squash. A few days of dry sunny weather last week allowed many to continue cutting hay. Half-inch or more rain received on Saturday morning.

The full report and other New England and Connecticut agricultural publications and information is available at www.nass.usda.gov/nh

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