

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
November 29, 2017



CONNECTICUT GROWN CHRISTMAS TREE FARMS OFFER ECONOMIC BOOST, SHARED FAMILY TRADITION

**Departments of Agriculture, Energy and Environmental Protection
Urge Customers to Visit Growers Statewide**

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

COVENTRY - The busy kickoff of Christmas tree sales last weekend at Hickory Ridge Tree Farm was an early signal of another successful season not just for the farm, but for all those who benefit from Connecticut's robust and expanding Christmas tree industry.

"The weather was just fantastic and I think we sold a few hundred trees, so we're right on track to sell over 1,000 trees this year," said Prescott Lehmann, who runs the farm with his wife Martine and son Josh.

A recent UConn study on the economic impact of agriculture in the state showed that the sale of Christmas trees grew by about 70 percent between 2007 and 2015, to total about \$10 million in annual sales.

The state's approximately 500 growers have nearly 4,000 acres planted with Christmas trees – the 13th largest acreage in the U.S.

Prescott said the economic benefits of their operation and others like it go beyond just selling holiday evergreens.

While the Christmas tree season lasts only a few weeks, he said, planting and raising the crop and maintaining the farm's infrastructure is a year-round job that requires year-round expenses.

There's the purchase of equipment like tractors, field

mowers and chainsaws - and the fuel to run them.

Last year, the Lehmann's bought two wooden sheds, one for storing equipment and another that serves as the farm's retail checkout counter, from a Connecticut manufacturer of small buildings.

They also hired a local carpenter to build a sturdy timber canopy where trees are trimmed and baled after being selected by customers.

"The impact of this farm on the local economy is amazing if you think of all the people and other businesses we touch," Prescott said Monday as he tended to customers trickling in after the weekend crowds had subsided.

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said the state's tree farms not only provide sustainable economic benefits, but offer a memorable family activity and a superior product.

"Connecticut's Christmas tree growers work hard all year to prepare for this season, and they are looking forward to another great year," Reviczky said. "What better way to start the holiday celebration than by visiting one of our scenic farms to select a Connecticut Grown tree or wreath that is of

(Continued on Page 3)

CONNECTICUT CHOOSE & CUT CHRISTMAS TREES

\$/Per unit, tax included, or as listed.

	LOW	HIGH
ANDOVER, +TAX	51.00	51.00
BURLINGTON	35.00	35.00
COVENTRY	20.00	100.00
GRISWOLD	55.00	55.00
KENSINGTON	55.00	55.00
NEWTOWN	55.00	55.00
NORTH STONINGTON	45.00	45.00
PRESTON	55.00	55.00
SOUTH WINDSOR	50.00	50.00
TERRYVILLE	35.00	35.00
VOLUNTOWN	45.00	45.00

WHOLESALE NEW ENGLAND POTATOES

Price range is per unit as labeled.

RNDWT, #1, CHEF, 50#	13.00	13.00
RNDWT, KENNEBEC#1, CHEF, 50#	12.00	13.00
RUSST, #1, 50LBS, 10 OZ	15.00	16.00
YELLOW, #1, 50#, CHEF	15.00	16.00

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	1.74	1.88
LARGE	1.72	1.86
MEDIUM	1.14	1.27

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	2.06	2.16
LARGE	2.05	2.15
MEDIUM	1.34	1.44
SMALL	.76	.86

NORTHEAST RETAIL CAGE-FREE EGGS

\$/Per unit.

BROWN, L, DOZEN	3.00	3.00
WHITE, L, DOZEN	1.66	2.99
WHITE, L, DOZEN	1.50	3.50

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	59.00	65.00
	300-350 lbs	58.00	60.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	52.00	60.00
	300-350 lbs	48.00	55.00
Sows, US 1-3			
	300-500 lbs	40.50	48.00
	500-700 lbs	41.50	47.50
Boars	300-400 lbs	5.00	10.00
	400-800 lbs	5.00	7.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices CONNECTICUT AND NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LBS	14.00	15.00
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 12-4 OZ	16.00	18.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, XFCY, 72	28.00	31.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, XFCY, 80	30.00	31.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, XFCY, 88	30.00	31.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, NG, LOOSE	18.00	18.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, 12-3 LB, 2-1/2 23.00		23.00
APPLE, GALA, US FANCY, 88	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GALA, US FANCY, 125	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, FCY, 64	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, FCY, 72	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, FCY, 80	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, FCY, 88	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, #1, 12-3LB	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, NG	18.00	18.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, TRAY 100	32.00	32.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, TRAY, 80	32.00	32.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, TRAY, 88	32.00	32.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, TRAY, 72	32.00	32.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, NG, LOOSE	40.00	40.00
APPLE, JONAGOLD, NG	20.00	20.00
APPLE, LADY, XFCY, 2-1/8" MIN	28.00	30.00
APPLE, MACOUN, XFCY, 72	32.00	32.00
APPLE, MACOUN, XFCY, 80	32.00	32.00
APPLE, MACOUN, XFCY, 88	30.00	32.00
APPLE, MACOUN, XFCY, 100	26.00	26.00
APPLE, MACOUN, NG, LOOSE	20.00	20.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, TRYPK 72	30.00	31.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, TRYPK 80	30.00	31.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, TRYPK 88	30.00	31.00
APPLE, MAC, USFCY, TRYPK 80	20.00	20.00
APPLE, MAC, USFCY, TRYPK 88	20.00	20.00
APPLE, MAC, USFCY, TRYPK 100	21.00	21.00
APPLE, MAC, NG, LOOSE	18.00	18.00
APPLE, MUTSU, NG, LOOSE	20.00	20.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 72	23.00	23.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 80	23.00	23.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 125	20.00	20.00
APPLE, RED DEL, #1, 12-3LB	24.00	24.00
APPLE, RED DEL, NG	18.00	18.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEETS, CHIOGGA, 25 LB, LSE	15.00	15.00
BEETS, GOLD, 25 LBS, LOOSE	14.00	14.00
BEETS, RED, 25 LBS, LOOSE	14.00	14.00
CARROTS, S-M, 10-5 LB FILM	14.00	14.00
CARROT, L, 25LB SACK, LOOSE	10.00	11.00
CIDER, 4- 1 GALLON	21.00	22.00
CIDER, 9-1/2 GALLON	22.50	25.00
CORNSTALKS, 5 BUNDLES	7.00	8.00
CRNBRY, LATEHOWE, M, 24-120Z	30.00	30.00
ORNMNTL CORN, 3/BN, 20	40.00	50.00
ORNMNTL GOURD, 20 LBS	15.00	15.00
ORNMNTL GOURD, SHEL, 1/2BU	22.00	24.00
ORNMNTL GOURD, SHEL, BU	32.00	35.00
PARSNIP, M, 20LB FILM, LOOSE	22.00	23.00
PARSNIP, M, 20LB FILM, 18-1LB	23.00	24.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, XL, 24" BIN	175.00	200.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, M-L, 36" BIN	270.00	300.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, M-L, BUSHEL	20.00	24.00
SQUASH, ACORN, L, 1-1/9	18.00	18.00
SQUASH, ACORN, M, 1-1/9	14.00	16.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, M, 1-1/9	16.00	16.00
SQUASH, DELICATA, M, 1/2 BU	14.00	14.00
SQUASH, KABOCHA, M, 1-1/9	16.00	18.00
SQUASH, SPAGHETTI, M, 1-1/9	15.00	16.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION
Middlefield, CT - November 27, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	35.00	40.00
61-75 lbs.	45.00	50.00
76-90 lbs.	110.00	117.50
91-105 lbs.	120.00	122.50
106 lbs. & up	125.00	137.50
Farm Calves	160.00	280.00
Starter Calves	30.00	34.00
Veal Calves	80.00	180.00
Feeder Heifers	85.00	170.00
Beef Heifers	58.00	62.00
Feeder Steers	60.00	100.00
Beef Steers	56.00	60.00
Feeder Bulls	100.00	190.00
Beef Bulls	1@	86.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	1@	.04
Sows	1@	30.00
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	11.00	35.00
Sheep each	80.00	195.00
Lambs each	90.00	230.00
Goats each	132.00	345.00
Kid Goats each	70.00	190.00
Canners	up to	54.00
Cutters	55.00	58.00
Utility Grade Cows	59.50	62.00
Rabbits each	6.00	14.00
Chickens each	4.00	40.00
Ducks each	3.00	20.00

No Auction on Christmas Day.
Auction will held Wednesday,
December 27, 2017

LANCASTER, PA, LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	51.50	55.50
boners 80-85% lean	51.50	55.00
lean 88-90% lean	46.00	51.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	112.00	115.50
Choice 2-3	108.00	111.50
Select 1-2	106.00	108.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Choice 2-3	87.00	89.00
Sel 1-2	76.50	83.50
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 90-125 lbs	130.00	160.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
90-110 lbs	200.00	220.00
110-130 lbs	192.00	210.00
130-150 lbs	175.00	193.00
150-200 lbs	152.00	172.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
120-160 lbs	77.00	105.00
160-200 lbs	70.00	95.00
200-300 lbs	72.00	102.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
40-60 lbs	145.00	175.00
60-80 lbs	165.00	195.00
80-100 lbs	190.00	220.00
100-120 lbs	220.00	235.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	190.00	230.00
130-170 lbs	220.00	260.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
80-100 lbs	205.00	240.00
100-150 lbs	290.00	345.00
150-250 lbs	365.00	485.00



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the highest quality and freshness.”

Tree farms also provide a number of environmental benefits such as protecting drinking water sources and keeping farmland productive, said Christopher Martin, Connecticut’s State Forester with the Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection.

“Locally grown trees are truly a green way to celebrate the holiday season,” Martin said, noting that up to three new trees are planted for every one cut. “By purchasing at local farms, Connecticut residents can have a direct influence on keeping forests as forests and farms as farms.”

The Dept. of Agriculture and the Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection issued a joint press release last week promoting the state’s Christmas tree industry that attracted media attention statewide, including from a television news crew that visited Hickory Ridge on Monday.

Martine Lehmann’s grandparents Martin and Lena Visny bought the farm in 1945, raising hay and a few cattle. They chose the name Hickory Ridge because of the native hickory trees that are still plentiful around the hilly 50-acre property.

Martine’s father Robert Visny and his late wife Wilma planted the first Christmas trees in 1960 after seeing one of their neighbors, Don March, growing and selling a few trees every year.

“I thought it seemed like an interesting job,” Robert recalled. “Don was very meticulous and he was the one who showed me how to shear trees.”

When their first crop matured several years later, they began selling trees at prices starting at \$3 and topping out at \$3.75.

“I think we sold about 20 trees that first year and we

used to get into arguments about charging fifty cents more or less,” Robert recalled with a chuckle.

Now 86, Robert retired from the farm in 2003 but still advises Prescott and Martine about the farm’s operation and helps out in the fields where he can, even planting a few seedlings last spring.

“I didn’t plant a lot,” he said, “but every one I planted was one less that they had to do.”

Hickory Ridge now has about 20,000 trees in the ground at any one time, and plants about 3,000 seedlings every spring that take 8 to 10 years to mature.

Prices range from \$20 for a small tabletop tree to \$100 for a 10-footer.

Kathy Kogut, Executive Director of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association, of which Hickory Ridge is a member, said the increasing popularity of the choose-and-cut farm has helped renew the tradition of the entire family selecting and cutting a Christmas tree.

“It is a genuine family experience which can be continued generation to generation,” she said. “Much like other crops provide food for the body, the scent of a farm-grown Christmas tree provides food for the soul.”

Martine, who grew up on the farm, said she and Prescott are committed to improving their operation not only for business and land-management reasons, but to encourage that shared family experience.

“We love this land,” she said, “and we love to see people coming here to get out in the fresh air and get a tree with their kids.”

A listing and brochure of tree farms, including those belonging to the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association, is available on the Dept. of Agriculture’s website at www.Ctgrown.gov/trees

99-R. Feed hay. \$5.00 per bale. Mixed grasses. Ledyard, CT. 860-464-9970.

105. Kubota L275 4 WD tractor. 27 HP, Standard, ROPS, \$4,800.00. 203-2374771.

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.

106-R. Advance your management skills and business knowledge by attending the GenerationNext seminar series hosted by Farm Credit East. GenerationNext is optimal for the next generation operators of an agricultural business. The program can help you identify areas for personal growth and development, acquire tools to help manage an agricultural business, and provides networking opportunities. Farm Credit East will be hosting sessions this winter at their Enfield, CT location, on Thursday, January 25; Thursday, February 22; and Thursday, March 15, 2018. Learn more at FarmCreditEast.com/GenerationNext or call 800.562.2235 to reserve your spot.

CT AG EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION

103-R. Family horticultural business seeing part time customer service employees for January-March. Very detailed oriented, with a cheerful, positive personality; a self-starter with demonstrated customer service experience. Interest in horticulture a must! Email resume to info@selectseeds.com

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.

92-R. Round hay bales – 52” x 48” – Tight, triple plastic wrapped, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, dry, haylage, grass, alfalfa. 200 available. 860-884-2889.

93-R. Christmas greens: wreaths and roping, many sizes and varieties. Excellent for fundraisers. We deliver. 203-457-1344.

95-R. First cut hay bales \$5.00 each. Mulch hay \$3.00 each. Pick up only. Suffield. 860-668-2181.

105. Kubota L275 4 WD tractor. 27 HP, Standard, ROPS, \$4,800.00. 203-2374771.



Top left: A young family heads out to select and cut a Christmas tree at Hickory Ridge Tree Farm in Coventry this week.

Top right: Robert Visny, who planted the first trees at the farm in 1960, is flanked by his daughter Martine Lehmann and her husband Prescott.

Above: The farm's selection of pre-cut trees is located under a stand of huge White Pines.

Above left: A view of the farm from a hillside field of trees.

Page 1 left: A TV news crew shooting video of Prescott baling a tree under the farm's new timber canopy.

Page 1 right: A display of the farm's tree offerings below its rustic gift shop.



2018-2020

FMNP Farmer Recertification Meetings

Take the survey and tell us when and where you* want the recertification meetings.

[HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/2018RECERT](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018recert)

Questions? Contact Jaime Smith, Jaime.Smith@ct.gov or 860-713-2559

*Farmers whose FMNP certification expired in December 2017 are required to attend a meeting to maintain the certification in 2018-2020 to continue accepting WIC and Senior FMNP checks.

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 or call 860-713-2588.

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