

Agricultural Report

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Ned Lamont, Governor
Bryan P. Hurlburt, Commissioner



Wednesday, August 14, 2019

GUIDANCE REGARDING THE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAG FEE

Bureau of Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation

Plastic bags are a common occurrence at grocery stores, shopping malls, for restaurant take out and at your local farmers' market and farm stand. But, with the passing of the single-use plastic bag legislation in July 2019, farmers at farmers' market and farm stands throughout Connecticut are wondering how this new law will affect them.

Do farmers need to collect the tax? How do they report it? Are biodegradable bags included? What type of bags are exempt? Do farmers need to charge for the bag if it's containing loose produce? The Department of Agriculture (DoAg) received these questions and many more from farmers and contacted the Department of Revenue Services' (DRS) Legal Division to obtain answers to questions specific to the industry.

DRS has issued a guidance document regarding the single-use plastic bag fee (OCG-9), which provides more details and is updated as new questions are answered that is available at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DRS/Publications/OCG/OCG-9-BagFee.pdf?la=en>.

Below are frequently asked questions and answers provided by DRS in addition to questions asked by the industry with answers provided by DRS Legal Division.

- **What is a "single-use checkout bag"?** A single-use checkout bag is a plastic bag with a thickness of less than four (4.0) mils provided by a store to a customer at the point of sale. Mils is a unit of measure referring to a thickness that's one thousandth of an inch thick.
- **What is the Plastic Bag Fee?** The Plastic Bag Fee (fee) is a statewide fee of \$0.10 per single-use plastic checkout bags that must be collected by stores making sales in Connecticut of tangible personal property (food included) to the public.
- **Who is required to collect the fee?** All stores are required to collect the fee. The new law defines a store as any retailer who is registered for Connecticut sales tax that sells goods directly to the pub-

lic and maintains a retail location in Connecticut that provides plastic bags to its customers.

- **When does a store need to start collecting the fee?** Stores must start collecting the fee on August 1, 2019.
- **Are any types of single-use plastic bags exempt from the fee?** Thin plastic bags on a continuous, perforated roll that are used to contain meat, seafood, loose produce or other unwrapped food items are exempt. If a plastic bag is over 4.0 mils then it's a reusable bag (not single-use) and also exempt.
- **If a single-use plastic bag is being use to contain loose produce at a pick-your-own farm does the farmer need to charge the fee?** No. Bags provided to contain loose produce are excluded from the plastic bag fee.
- **If a single-use plastic bag is provided prior to the execution of the sale to contain loose produce while shopping at a farmers' market does the farmer need to charge the fee?** No. Bags provided to contain loose produce are excluded from the plastic bag fee.
- **What if the single-use plastic bag is biodegradable, recyclable, or compostable? Are they subject to the fee?** Yes. The plastic bag fee legislation does not distinguish compostable or biodegradable plastic bags from other plastic bags, so the fee is due.
- **Is a farmer's farm stand or display at a farmers' market considered a store?** Yes, if the farmer is registered for CT sales tax.
 - **If the farmer doesn't have a sales tax ID associated with the business do they need to charge a fee?** Farmers that are exclusively in the business of raising and selling tobacco, fruit, or vegetables are not required to obtain a Sales and Use Tax Permit (see [JP 2018 \(19\), Farmer's Guide to Sales and Use Taxes, Motor Vehicle Fuels Tax, Estimated Income Tax, and Withholding Tax](#)). Such farmers also are not re-



Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz at a local farmers' market.

(continued on Page 3)

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	.59	.82
LARGE	.53	.67
MEDIUM	.32	.45

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	1.25	1.49
LARGE	1.05	1.39
MEDIUM	.77	.89
SMALL	.69	.79

LANCASTER, PA LIVESTOCK

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted

SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Choice and Prime 3-4	114.00	119.50
Choice 2-3	110.00	114.00
Select 2-3	105.00	109.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Choice and Prime 3-4	114.00	117.50
Choice 2-3	107.00	113.00
Select 2-3	94.00	106.00
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	61.00	67.00
boners 80-85% lean	60.00	67.00
lean 88-90% lean	51.00	58.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 100-105 lbs	70.00	102.00
No 2 90-95 lbs	50.00	70.00
No 2 100-105 lbs	55.00	75.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
93-96 lbs	210.00	225.00
105-145 lbs	155.00	210.00
150-185 lbs	140.00	150.00
Choice 1-2		
55-59 lbs	195.00	225.00
61-64 lbs	210.00	230.00
70-77 lbs	190.00	215.00
80-85 lbs	190.00	215.00
Choice 2-3		
90-96 lbs	177.00	195.00
101-140 lbs	155.00	190.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS: Per head/ Est. weight		
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
60-69 lbs	160.00	180.00
70-79 lbs	170.00	200.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
100-149 lbs	230.00	255.00
150-185 lbs	235.00	285.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
130-149 lbs	280.00	320.00
150-199 lbs	365.00	410.00
200-249 lbs	390.00	450.00

DAIRY CATTLE

New Holland, PA. Price per animal.

FRESH/MILKING COWS		
APPROVED	875.00	1375.00
MEDIUM	500.00	850.00
SPRINGER COWS:		
APPROVED	900.00	1325.00
SPRINGER HEIFERS:		
APPROVED	825.00	1175.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT

Price per ton, small squares. August 12, 2019

ALFALFA/ GRASS		
GOOD	250.00	290.00
FAIR	150.00	175.00
GRASS HAYS		
PREMIUM	320.00	330.00
GOOD	270.00	290.00
FAIR	160.00	160.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices CONNECTICUT AND NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, GHS, 5 LBS	14.00	15.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 72	28.00	32.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 80	31.00	32.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 88	31.00	32.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 100	26.00	26.00
APPLE, RED DEL, XFCY, 80	24.00	24.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 125	18.00	19.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 138	18.00	19.00
BEANS, ROUND GREEN, 1 BU	18.00	20.00
BEANS, FLAT GREEN, 1 BU	30.00	30.00
BEANS, WAX, 1 BU	30.00	32.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BLUEBERRIES, 12-1 PT	34.00	36.00
BROCCOLI, CROWN CUT, 20LB	17.00	18.00
CABBAGE, GRN, 50 LB	15.00	18.00
CABBAGE, RED, 50 LB, M/L	24.00	26.00
CABBAGE, SAVOY, 40 LB	18.00	20.00
CAULIFLOWER, CRT, 12S	20.00	20.00
CIDER, 4-1 GALLON	24.00	24.00
CIDER, 9-1/2 GALLON	28.00	28.00
COLLARDS, CTN, 12S	13.00	16.00
CORN, BI-COLOR, 5 DZ	16.00	20.00
CUCUMBER, 1 1/9 BU, MED	16.00	18.00
EGGPLANT, 1 1/9 BU, MED	14.00	15.00
GOOSEBERRIES, 12-1 PT	35.00	37.00
KALE, CTN, BNCH, 12'S	13.00	15.00
RADISHES, RED, BNCH 24S	13.00	14.00
RHUBARB, 20 LBS, CRT, L	34.00	35.00
RED CURRANTS, 12-1 PT	35.00	37.00
SQUASH, BNUT, 1 1/9 BU, M	15.00	18.00
SQUASH, ZUCCHINI, 1/2 BU, S	12.00	13.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, 1/2 BU, S	10.00	13.00
SQUASH, GREY, 1/2 BU, M	26.00	28.00
STRAWBERRIES, 8-1 QT, M	38.00	39.00
TOMS, FIELD, 20 LB, CRT, L	18.00	18.00
TOMS, VINE RIPES, 12 LB, FLT, L	22.00	22.00
TOMS, VINE RIPES, 25 LB, S-M	22.00	22.00
TOMS, VINE RIPES, 25 LB, M	20.00	20.00
TOMS, VINE RIPES, 25 LB, L	25.00	25.00
TOMS, CHERRY, 5 LB, FLT, S-M	20.00	20.00
TOMS, CHERRY, 12 10-OZ CUP	24.00	25.00
TOMS, GRAPE, 12-1 PT, S-M	12.00	12.00

SHIPPED IN

Price Range. Per unit.

APPLE, FUJI, NY, XFCY, 64	31.00	31.00
APPLE, FUJI, NY, FCY, 125	19.00	19.00
APPLE, JONAGOLD, NY, XFCY, 64S	24.00	24.00
BEETS, RED, NJ, BNCH 12S	16.00	18.00
BEETS, CHIOGGA, NJ, BNCH 12S	16.00	18.00
BEETS, GOLD, NJ, BNCH 12S	16.00	18.00
BOK CHOY, NJ, 2 BU	20.00	26.00
CARROTS, CA, BNCH, 24S	22.00	24.00
LETTUCE, GRN LF, CA, 24S	18.00	25.00
LETTUCE, RDLF, CA, 24S	18.00	25.00
MESCLUN MIX, CA, 3 LBS	6.50	8.00
PEACHES, YELLOW, NJ, 1/2 BU, 2 3/4"	22.00	22.00
PEPPER, GRN BELL, NJ, 1 1/9 BU, L	14.00	15.00
PEPPER, CUBANELLES, NJ, 1 1/9 BU, L	20.00	23.00
PEPPER, LONG HOTS, NJ, 1 1/9 BU	26.00	30.00
PEPPER, POBLANO, NJ, 10 LB, L	14.00	15.00
SWISS CHARD, MIXED, NJ, 12's	18.00	18.00
SQUASH, KABOCHA, NJ, 1/2 BU, M	22.00	24.00
WATERMELON, 20-24 LB, DE, EA	6.00	8.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - August 12, 2019

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	10.00	15.00
61-75 lbs.	20.00	22.50
76-90 lbs.	25.00	30.00
91-105 lbs.	32.50	35.00
106 lbs. & up	40.00	45.00
Farm Calves	50.00	55.00
Starter Calves	n/a	n/a
Veal Calves	70.00	115.00
Feeder Heifers	65.00	75.00
Beef Heifers	60.00	67.50
Feeder Steers	80.00	105.00
Beef Steers	78.00	85.00
Feeder Bulls	70.00	90.00
Beef Bulls	59.00	81.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	10.00	57.50
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	n/a	n/a
Sheep each	35.00	150.00
Lambs each	40.00	160.00
Goats each	80.00	215.00
Kid Goats each	55.00	170.00
Canners up to		62.50
Cutters	63.00	66.00
Utility Grade Cows	67.00	72.00
Rabbits each	4.00	15.00
Chickens each	3.00	17.00
Ducks each	5.00	7.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

SLAUGHTER HOGS		
BARROWS AND GILTS		
US 1-2 208-298 lbs	54.00	61.00
300-365 lbs	52.00	62.00
US 2-3 210-299 lbs	47.00	55.00
305-399 lbs	47.00	51.00
SOWS		
US 1-2 330-398 lbs	35.00	40.50
400-493 lbs	38.00	43.00
555-570 lbs	42.00	44.00
BOARS		
US 1-2 420-490 lbs	13.00	15.00
500-540 lbs	16.50	17.50

BOSTON MARKET ORGANIC

Price Range. Per unit.

APPLE, FUJI, WA, XFCY, 80'S	35.00	35.00
CABBAGE, GRN, 45 LB CRT	26.00	26.00
CABBAGE, RED, 45 LB CRT	34.00	38.00
CARROTS, CA, 25 LB LOOSE	23.00	24.00
CUKE, LONG SEEDLESS, CRT	18.00	18.00
KALE, BNCH, 12S, CRT	25.00	25.00
MESCLUN MIX, CA, 3 LB	9.50	10.00
NECTARINES, TRAY-PAC, 56S	44.00	44.00
PEACHES, TRAY-PAC, 48S	44.00	44.00
PEPPER, RED BELL, 11LB, XL	32.00	34.00
PEPPER, YEL BELL, 11LB, XL	32.00	34.00
PEPPER, ORA BELL, 11LB, XL	34.00	34.00
PEPPER, GRN BELL, 1 1/9BU, XL	45.00	45.00
SPINACH, BABY, 4 LB	13.50	13.50
STRAWBERRIES, CA, 8-1LB	8.00	8.00
SQUASH, ZUC, 1/2 BU, S-M	20.00	20.00
SQUASH, YEL, 1/2 BU, S-M	20.00	20.00
SWEET POTATOES, WHT, 20LB	40.00	42.00
SWEET POTATOES, ORA, 40LB	38.00	42.00

(continued from Page 1)

quired to charge the plastic bag fee. However, farmers making sales of other types of tangible personal property, such as decorative items, must collect both the sales tax and the plastic bag fee.

- **How does a farmer report the fee to the customer?** If providing a receipt then farmers must indicate on the receipt the number of single-use plastic checkout bags provided and the total amount of the fee charged.
- **Are there any of individuals (WIC/Senior FMNP users, SNAP users, etc.) that are exempt from having to pay the fee?** No. If a fee must be charged, all customers must pay the fee.
- **How does a store report the fees collected to DRS?** Each store must report all Plastic Bag Fees it collects to DRS with its sales tax return under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 12-414, and remit such fees at the same time and in the same form and manner required under that section.
- **Is the fee included in gross receipts for purposes of the sales tax?** No. Sales tax is not imposed on the single-use plastic checkout bag fee. However, any municipal charges for bags are subject to sales tax.
- **If a store provides donated or used plastic bags to its customers do they need to charge a fee?** A fee must be charged regardless if it's a used bag or a new one. The imposition of the fee is based on the provision of a store providing a plastic bag to a customer as part of a sales transaction.
- **If a store uses plastic bags for reasons other than sales transactions do they need to charge a fee?** The fee does not need to be collected if there is no sale to a customer. As a result, plastic bags used by a store for other purposes, such as providing promotional materials or offering free items unrelated to a sales transaction, are not subject to the fee.
- **Do organizations, other than stores, giving away single-use plastic bags need to charge a fee to those they provide a bag to?** No.
- **When is the ban on single-use plastic checkout bags in effect?** As of July 1, 2021, single-use plastic checkout bags are scheduled to be banned in the State of Connecticut.

Did you know:

Municipalities may enact or enforce an ordinance concerning single-use plastic checkout bags, provided the ordinance is as restrictive or more restrictive as the state legislation.

Municipalities may enact or enforce an ordinance concerning paper checkout bags, including, but not limited to, enabling each store to charge a fee for any such bag distributed to a customer.

Any municipal charges for a bag are subject to sales tax. If a municipality were to charge its own plastic bag fee, it would be in addition to the state plastic bag fee.

Municipalities may enact bans of plastic bags prior to the statewide ban on July 1, 2021.

While the question of the \$.10 fee is the current concern, the inevitable is the complete ban on any single-use plastic bags by July 1, 2021. DoAg is actively working to develop a reusable bag purchase program for farmers. More information will be forthcoming.

For additional information and questions regarding tax registration, filing, or collecting, please call DRS during business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at 860-297-5962. Industry specific questions can be directed to Jaime Smith at Jaime.Smith@ct.gov.

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

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 Zyskowski today at 203-444-6553

27-R. Pollination services for small scale farms. Call Hilltop Apiaries for information at 860-408-9039

50-R. Clean straw and mulch hay for sale at the barn. 860-628-1100

51. Freshly sheared raw/unwashed Gulf Coast Native ewe sheep fleeces. 5 available, in Lebanon, Connecticut. \$50/fleece. 860-803-5599

52-R. Once used pumpkin bins for sale, they are all in good shape \$8 - \$10 each, limited supply. About 1,700 feet of 40 foot 4 inch wade rain pipe .75 per foot. Call Karl 860-268-5931 or Glenn 860-930-4331 for details

WANTED

6-R. Livestock wanted: Dairy cattle, heifers of any age, beef cows, bulls, steers, feeder cattle, veal, groups of sheep and goats. RyanM01@comcast.net or 860-655-0958. If no answer, leave message. All calls returned

53-R. Wanted: bags of white sweet corn. Please call 860-207-3124 and leave message

MISCELLANEOUS

44-R. Connecticut Greenhouse Company. Installation, maintenance and fabrication of greenhouses, cold frames and NRCS high tunnels. 12' to 30' wide by any length. Designed and manufactured in CT, a farmer owned and operated business. Maintenance parts, supplies and custom plastic. www.ctgreenhouse.com or call Toby 203-654-1595

NRCS AMA APPLICATIONS DUE AUGUST 16, 2019

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service is offering eligible producers another opportunity to sign-up for FY2019 program funding through the Agricultural Management Assistance Program. AMA is a voluntary program that provides financial assistance to eligible agricultural producers to address issues such as water management, water quality, erosion control, and extending the growing season through use of a high tunnel.

Eligible crop production includes – but is not limited to – field-grown ornamentals, fruits, orchards, plant materials in greenhouses, row crops, vegetables, and vineyards. Each eligible conservation practice has a Practice Payment Rate which is a fixed amount based on regional costs of a typical installation of that practice.

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis; however, to be eligible for FY2019 funding, applications must be received by your local NRCS office by August 16, 2019.

To find out more, fill out eligibility forms, or obtain an application, contact your local USDA Service Center: Danielson – (860) 779-0557; Hamden – (203) 287-8038; Norwich – (860) 887-3604; Torrington – (860) 626-8852; Windsor – (860) 688-7725.

UConn AGRICULTURE CERTIFICATE SURVEY

UConn Extension is seeking input about development of an agriculture certificate program to enhance skill sets of farmers, farm employees, and students. to complete the survey go to https://uconn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0cAjhUkSSulEsvj

HACCP FOR MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSORS

UConn Extension is offering a three-day HACCP for Meat and Poultry Processors course, September 4-6, 2019 at the Homer Babbidge Library at the UConn Storrs Campus.

This three-day International HACCP Alliance approved Meat and Poultry HACCP course will provide participants with the information they need to prepare a HACCP food safety program and plan for a plant under USDA/FSIS Grant of Inspection.

Course dates and times (must be present for entire course): Wednesday, September 4 (registration at 8:30 a.m., start at 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); Thursday, September 5 (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); AND Friday, September 6 (8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.).

The cost of registration is \$425 per person and covers program costs, parking, continental breakfast, breaks, and lunch. You must pre-register. Space is limited. Registration materials must be received by August 20, 2019. There will be no refunds after August 20, 2019.

The course will be held at UConn's Homer Babbidge Library, Room 1102, Level 1, Storrs, CT 06269.

For information regarding program and registration, please contact: Diane Wright Hirsch at diane.hirsch@uconn.edu or 203-407-3163. To register online, using a credit card for payment go to <https://uconnuecs.cvent.com/foodsafety2019> (this is preferred and easiest to administer).

This course is sponsored by the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension in cooperation with the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension.

INFORMATION FOR HEMP GROWERS

UConn Extension Vegetable Specialist, Shuresh Ghimire provides the following information for hemp growers:

For cannabidiol (CBD) hemp growers, identifying and removing male plants at early stage of flowering (before pollination) is critical. Female plants are ideal for CBD production as the inflorescences of female plant has significantly greater CBD content than male plants. Pollination and seed set drastically reduces CBD content.

Most cultivars currently grown in field are photoperiod sensitive. As daylength is getting shorter than 14 hours, you will start to see hemp flower, even in full sunlight field conditions. Some of you are already seeing lots of flowers, mostly where the plants are not exposed to full sunlight conditions. You will need to be vigilant in identifying male flowers and remove any male plants before pollination occurs.

Go to <https://fi348.infusionsoft.com/app/linkClick/7218/b41ff645c013a58e/329778/87f7d172d6a2afec> to download an August 9, 2019 UConn Extension Hemp Message that includes information about how to identify male and female hemp plants, and a link to a video that shows how to identify male and female flowers. This Hemp Message also includes a list of insects (with photos) that were spotted in field-grown hemp in Connecticut. It is important to note that currently there are no pesticides that are specifically labeled for use on hemp by the EPA. Go to <https://forms.gle/s431sJwazfykbVVA9> for to a brief survey with three questions about hemp growing.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



CTGrown.gov

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 Crystal.Morris@ct.gov or call 860-713-2533.

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

Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2019.

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

Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt
bryan.hurlburt@ct.gov 860-713-2501

Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation 860-713-2503

Regional Market 860-566-3699

Regulatory Services Dr. Bruce Sherman
bruce.sherman@ct.gov 860-713-2504

State Veterinarian Dr. Mary J. Lis
mary.lis@ct.gov 860-713-2505

Aquaculture David Carey
david.carey@ct.gov 203-874-2855

**VOL. XCIX
No. 33
August 14, 2019**