

Agricultural Report

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



Wednesday, July 10, 2019

DOAG INSPECTION PROGRAM AIMS TO ENHANCE PRODUCE GROWERS ON-FARM FOOD SAFETY ACTIVITIES

Mark Zotti, Bureau of Regulatory Services

With summer in full swing, consumers are busy visiting local farm stands and farmers markets in search of locally grown produce from the state's hard-working farmers. Every season comes with challenges and 2019 is no different. Aside from the rain and cooler temperatures being a challenge at the start the season, some farmers throughout the state have also had to implement the provisions of recently enacted on-farm food safety laws.

Fresh fruits and vegetables are a staple for all healthy diets. Consumers seek produce at farm stands, farmers markets and supermarkets throughout the state. They want local products and expect local products to be safe. To minimize risk of microbial contamination, the Produce Safety Rule (PSR) of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) implemented science based standards for the growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of fresh fruits and vegetables intended for human consumption.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) has developed the state's first registration and inspection program for Connecticut produce farms. This activity is a direct result of the PSR—one of seven major rules of FSMA.

FSMA has made a fundamental change to food safety regulations that can substantially affect how fruit and vegetable farms operate in 2019 and beyond, transforming the nation's food safety system by shifting the focus from responding to foodborne illness to preventing it.

DoAg recognized the significance of this legislation many years ago and has developed a strategy to ensure the adaptation by the industry in Connecticut and assist in mitigating potential negative effects of these new laws.

With a focus on ensuring a knowledgeable and educated industry, DoAg believes this will provide the foundation for long term success. DoAg is actively sharing its efforts and vision with farmers, produce buyers, and public health partners. Collaboration among these groups is key to the un-

derstanding and integration of these new laws to ensure the viability of fruit and vegetable growers.

DoAg was authorized to adopt the PSR in 2017 pursuant to Public Act No. 17-208 (C.G.S. Sec. 22-39g) and is developing regulations to further specify how the program will operate.

With a cooperative agreement in place with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, DoAg has leveraged federal funding to develop its program, expand food safety education opportunities with UConn Extension, and prepare the state's industry for a produce safety inspection program.

This program will be amended as the federal rule provides clarification and as the state's proposed regulations are finalized.

The PSR requires produce farms to be inspected in accordance with the following inspection schedule, based on average income, beginning in 2019:

- More than \$500,000 in produce sales: 2019
- \$250,000 - \$500,000 in produce sales: 2020
- \$25,000 - \$250,000 in produce sales: 2021

All fruit and vegetable growers that sell over \$25,000 in produce are covered by the PSR. These farms need to register with the DoAg annually. Registered farms will receive a registration card from DoAg.

There are modified requirements for growers that claim a qualified exemption from the PSR. This exemption is in place for farms with less than \$500,000 in total food sales that sell

the majority of their produce directly to a qualified end users (restaurants, grocery stores, schools, etc.). These farms are required to submit a declaration to DoAg which will allow them to avoid routine compliance (inspections) activities.

Farms with less than \$25,000 in produce sales are not required to register or be inspected. These farms are encouraged to submit a declaration to avoid routine compliance activities. All farms regardless of size are subject to for-cause inspections such as out-



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NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	.64	.83
LARGE	.58	.72
MEDIUM	.33	.46

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	1.16	1.49
LARGE	1.06	1.39
MEDIUM	.78	.89
SMALL	.69	.79

LANCASTER, PA LIVESTOCK

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted

SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Choice 2-3	101.00	124.00
Select 2-3	113.00	134.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Choice 2-3	102.00	105.00
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	61.00	66.00
boners 80-85% lean	58.00	65.50
lean 88-90% lean	48.00	56.50
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 100-105 lbs	90.00	100.00
No 2 90-95 lbs	70.00	85.00
No 2 100-105 lbs	70.00	85.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
80-88 lbs	230.00	245.00
92-98 lbs	225.00	245.00
100-135 lbs	192.00	250.00
Choice 1-2		
50-59 lbs	220.00	245.00
60-68 lbs	205.00	235.00
70-78 lbs	210.00	230.00
80-89 lbs	195.00	235.00
Choice 2-3		
90-99 lbs	200.00	225.00
100-138 lbs	185.00	215.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS: Per head/ Est. weight		
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
50-59 lbs	185.00	215.00
60-69 lbs	205.00	230.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
100-149 lbs	235.00	275.00
150-199 lbs	255.00	290.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
100-149 lbs	260.00	290.00
150-199 lbs	300.00	360.00

BOSTON MARKET CUT FLOWERS

Wholesale price \$/ unit as listed

NEW ENGLAND GROWN

ALLIUM, Gigantum/ stem	2.00	2.50
CALLA, White/ stem	5.00	5.00
CORNFLOWER/ BNCH 10's	7.50	7.50
FOXGLOVE, BUNCH	12.50	12.50
LISIANTHUS, BNCH 10's	20.00	20.00
PEONY, BNCH 10's	20.00	20.00
SNAPDRAGON, BNCH 10's	12.75	15.00
SUNFLOWER, BNCH 5's	7.50	8.75
SUNFLOWER per stem	1.00	1.00

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, 80	31.00	32.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 88	31.00	32.00
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
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
CIDER, 4-1 GALLON	24.00	24.00
CIDER, 9-1/2 GALLON	28.00	28.00
PEAS, ENGLISH, 1 1/9 BU	75.00	80.00
RHUBARB, 20 LBS, CRT, L	34.00	35.00
SQUASH, ZUCCHINI, 1/2 BU, M	7.00	10.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, 1/2 BU, S	18.00	22.00
STRAWBERRIES, 8- 1 QT	36.00	37.00
TOMS, GHS, 25 LB, S-M	22.00	22.00
TOMS, GHS, ON VINE, 11 LB	13.00	13.00
TOMS, GHS, CHERRY, 12 10-OZ	24.00	25.00

SHIPPED IN

Price Range. Per unit.

APPLE, FUJI, NY, XFCY, 64	31.00	31.00
APPLE, FUJI, NY, XFCY, 125	19.00	19.00
APPLE, JONAGOLD, NY, XFCY, 125	24.00	24.00
BEANS, GREEN, 1 BU	18.00	20.00
BEETS, RED, NJ, BNCH 12S	16.00	17.00
BEETS, GOLD, NJ, BNCH 12S	22.00	24.00
BLUEBERRIES, GA, 12-1 PT	18.00	21.00
BOK CHOY, NJ, 2 BU	33.00	33.00
BROCCOLI, CTN, CA, 14'S	16.00	19.00
CABBAGE, GRN, NJ, 50 LB	18.00	20.00
CABBAGE, RED, NJ, 50 LB, M/L	18.00	24.00
CABBAGE, NAPA, NJ, 1 7/8 BU	26.00	28.00
CARROTS, CA, BUNCHED, 24	22.00	24.00
COLLARDS, NJ, 1 3/5 BU, 12'S	13.00	16.00
CUCUMBER, NJ, 1 1/9 BU, MED	30.00	35.00
CUKE, PICKLES, GA, 150-200	26.00	28.00
EGGPLANT, GA, 1 1/9 BU, MED	12.00	16.00
KALE, NJ, CTN, 1 3/5 BU, 12'S	13.00	16.00
KOHLRABI, NJ, 1 3/5 BU, 12'S	13.00	16.00
LETTUCE, BOSTON, NJ, 24S	18.00	18.00
LETTUCE, GRN LF, NJ, 24S	16.00	20.00
LETTUCE, RDLF, NJ, 24S	16.00	20.00
MESCLUN MIX, CA, 3 LBS	6.50	8.00
PARSLEY, CURLY, NJ, CTN, 60'S	30.00	32.00
PARSLEY, PLAIN, NJ, CTN, 60'S	35.00	36.00
SWISS CHARD, MIXED, NJ, 12's	18.00	18.00

BOSTON MARKET ORGANIC

Price Range. Per unit.

APPLE, FUJI, WA, XFCY, 80'S	35.00	35.00
BLUEBERRIES, CA, 12- 1 PT	36.00	36.00
CABBAGE, GRN, 45 LB CRT	26.00	26.00
CABBAGE, RED, 45 LB CRT	36.00	38.00
CARROTS, CA, 25 LB LOOSE	23.00	24.00
CUKE, LONG SEEDLESS, CRTN	14.00	16.00
KALE, BNCH, 12S, CRT	25.00	25.00
MESCLUN MIX, CA, 3 LB	9.50	10.00
MUSHROOMS, WHITE, 12-8 OZ.	17.00	17.00
SQUASH, ZUC, 1/2 BU, S-M	20.00	20.00
SQUASH, YEL, 1/2 BU, S-M	20.00	20.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - July 8, 2019

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	10.00	15.00
61-75 lbs.	25.00	30.00
76-90 lbs.	34.00	40.00
91-105 lbs.	44.00	47.50
106 lbs. & up	50.00	52.50
Farm Calves	n/a	n/a
Starter Calves	n/a	n/a
Veal Calves	90.00	125.00
Feeder Heifers	90.00	110.00
Beef Heifers	72.00	105.00
Feeder Steers	80.00	95.00
Beef Steers	84.00	97.00
Feeder Bulls	90.00	125.00
Beef Bulls	76.00	85.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	1@	.34/lb
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	35.00	40.00
Sheep each	140.00	150.00
Lambs each	80.00	295.00
Goats each	140.00	250.00
Kid Goats each	40.00	145.00
Canners	up to	63.50
Cutters	64.00	67.00
Utility Grade Cows	68.00	71.00
Rabbits each	5.00	30.00
Chickens each	4.00	18.00
Roosters each	5.00	18.00

DAIRY CATTLE

New Holland, PA. Price per animal.

FRESH/MILKING COWS		
APPROVED	900.00	1550.00
MEDIUM	700.00	875.00
SPRINGER HEIFERS:		
APPROVED	1000.00	1175.00
OPEN HEIFERS		
APPROVED	150.00	200.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT

Price per ton, small squares. July 8, 2019

ALFALFA/ GRASS		
PREMIUM	400.00	400.00
GOOD	280.00	280.00
GRASS HAYS		
GOOD	325.00	325.00
FAIR	180.00	220.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

SLAUGHTER HOGS		
BARROWS AND GILTS		
US 1 200-255 lbs	62.00	69.00
US 1-2 205-290 lbs	50.00	61.00
305-375 lbs	48.00	59.00
US 2-3 208-293 lbs	45.00	56.00
SOWS		
US 1-2 325-390 lbs	29.00	37.00
405-495 lbs	16.00	26.00
521-585 lbs	30.00	42.00

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break and complaint investigations.

A significant driver of on-farm food safety programs is the produce buying community. Beginning over a decade ago, produce buyers began asking their farms to participate in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Audits to verify on-farm food safety activities aimed at reducing the risk of microbial contamination.

Over the past decade, the produce growing community has seen an increase in requests from produce buyers for GAP audits to gain market access. Prior to the adoption of the PSR, DoAg offered USDA GAP audits. This service has been discontinued in 2019 and replaced with a state specific GAP program called the Connecticut Good Agricultural Practices (CGAP) on-farm food safety program.

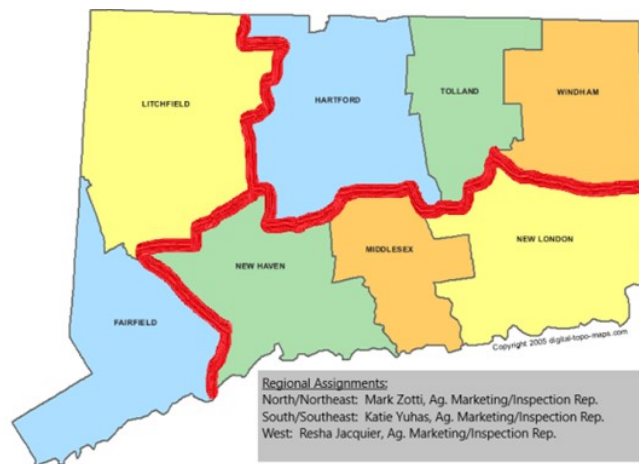
CGAP is founded on the PSR with common GAP principles incorporated to support the program. This program is similar to the Massachusetts Commonwealth Quality Program that has provided a state specific audit to Massachusetts' growers for many years and has also adopted the PSR provisions.

CGAP is open to all Connecticut produce growers regardless of sales. It focuses on the documents, records and training each farm provides in an effort to enhance the food safety culture and reduce the risk of microbial contamination on their farm.

Work on this program has been done in collaboration with other New England states with an overall goal to align each state program. Several produce buyers have expressed interest and support for this initiative.

DoAg is encouraged by a shared vision from farmers, buyers, and regulators to enhance on-farm food safety and ensure access to markets for the state's industry.

To best serve fruit and vegetable growers throughout the state, DoAg Marketing & Inspection Representatives are assigned to specific regions throughout the state.



Map of Connecticut produce safety regions and DoAg representatives assigned to each region.

These representatives serve as the primary point of contact for farmers, produce buyers, and local health officials for produce safety related questions and perform functions including PSR inspections and CGAP reviews.

On-farm food safety educational opportunities for farmers are provided by UConn Extension. Such opportunities include the Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course.

For more information regarding UConn Extension and the food safety programs offered, visit www.foodsafety.uconn.edu.

Connecticut's fruit and vegetable inspection program is still in its infancy. A website dedicated to providing the most up to date information is currently under development and is available at www.ctgrown.gov/producesafety. All those with questions can email ProduceSafety@ct.gov, or call 860-713-2522.

ADVERTISEMENTS

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 Zyskowski today at 203-444-6553

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

35-R. Former garden shop and greenhouse, retail store, house, storage barn. 4 acres. Busy road Route 194. \$399,999. 860-648-9017

47-R. Chain link quality fence panels, 6'x6' w/hardware. 180 ft available. \$1800 OBO. Make them to your needs. 860-267-4341

48-R. 1086 International tractor with 6 bottom plow, 12 ft wheel harrow, asking \$15,000. 860-623-4366

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

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

49-R. Attention Hemp Growers: Farmland and Greenhouse space available for sale/rent to licensed growers. Thirty acres of land and 3 acres of greenhouse space. Call Alex @ 203-223-4853 for details

USDA SEEKING CROP PROGRESS REPORTERS

The New England Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service is seeking Crop Progress Reporters across New England to provide information for inclusion in the weekly Crop Progress & Condition report.

If you know about crop conditions in your area you can help New England agriculture with this popular weekly crop update. It only takes about 10-15 minutes each week to alert USDA of the crop situation in your county using the Internet/ Fax report form. To become a Crop reporter or to receive more information, call 1-800-642-9571 or send an Email message to nass-nh@nass.usda.gov with the subject as "Crop Progress."

Go to https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/New_England/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/index.php to access the New England Crop Progress & Condition report.

UConn Horticulture of Cannabis Course

UConn is offering an online Horticulture of Cannabis: From Seed to Harvest course this summer. The course is a 3-credit course and can be completed 100% online from anywhere in the world. This course is designed to provide an intensive, but introductory overview of the horticultural techniques used to grow and manage this medically important and high value crop.

The five-week course is from July 15 to August 16, 2019 and is open to UConn students and non-students. The course includes applied horticulture information about growing cannabis in greenhouses/controlled environments as well as the field.

Go to <https://summersession.uconn.edu/online-horticulture-of-cannabis-from-seed-to-harvest> to learn more about the registration process for UConn students, and non-students,

A permission number is required to enroll. Email Nicole Gabelman at Nicole.gabelman@uconn.edu to get a permission number. There are no prerequisites, although some biology, botany, or horticulture would be beneficial.

HEALTHY SOILS WORKSHOP

Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) will offer a Silvopasture & Agroforestry 101 workshop on Wednesday, August 14, 2019; 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The workshop will be held at Hidden Blossom Farm, 18 Old Barrows Road, Union, CT. The registration fee is \$25. For additional information and registration go to <https://ctrkd.org/silvopasture-agroforestry-workshop>. For more information, contact Amanda at ajohnson@ctrkd.org or call 860.345.3977 x100.

CT NRCS EQIP Applications Due July 26th

Are you a Connecticut landowner operating a vegetable, nursery, orchard, greenhouse, or other field crop operation who's looking for ways to improve your conservation efforts?

Are you the owner or operator of an Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) or Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) in Connecticut looking for ways to protect natural resources?

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to help farmers take voluntary actions to minimize potential resource concerns by providing technical and sometimes financial assistance for the adoption of practices that will protect natural resources.

NEW – qualified applicants can use EQIP to address gypsy moth damage. Options include an opportunity for early successional cutting, an addendum to applicants with an existing forestry management plan to remove dead and dying trees, and a template plan for those with a current forest stewardship plan.

Applications are accepted year-round; however, to be eligible for current year funding you must ensure your application is submitted to your local NRCS office by July 26, 2019.

For more information go to the Getting Started section of the Connecticut NRCS website at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ct/home>.

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.

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.

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