

Agricultural Report

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



Wednesday, November 13, 2019

CONNECTICUT FARMERS USE RESEARCH TO EXTEND SEASON FOR FRESH CONNECTICUT GROWN PRODUCE

Bureau of Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation

As the traditional outdoor growing season comes to a close, some Connecticut farmers take advantage of season extension research and techniques to continue growing and harvesting their crops into the winter months.

Bryan O'Hara of Tobacco Road Farm in Lebanon, CT, is one farmer who has embraced season extension to bring customers fresh Connecticut Grown vegetables throughout the winter months.

"The combination of high demand in the off-season and the warmer winter weather has many growers pushing the limits of various vegetable varieties," said Bryan. "With the increase in vegetable production comes the interest in extending the seasons of growth and harvest for many vegetable crops."

Rob Durgy of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) has established a Produce Overwintering Program at CAES's Griswold Research Center in Griswold, CT, to advance our knowledge of season extension in Connecticut. The study is being funded through a \$31,620 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [Specialty Crop Block Grant administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture \(DoAg\)](#).

This research will provide farmers with information about varieties and growing techniques that will increase the volume and diversity of Connecticut Grown produce farmers can grow year-round for a steady stream of income.

"The demand for fresh local produce has increased greatly over the past decade," said Rob who is also the farm manager at the [Griswold Research Center](#). "Farmers need innovative approaches to help meet this growing demand. The Produce Overwintering Program will develop novel approaches and identify vegetable varieties best suited for

twelve month production."

The first vegetables tested are broccoli and cabbage, which typically do not overwinter successfully in Connecticut. Future research will focus on other crops including beets, carrots, leeks, lettuce, radish, and Swiss chard. Several varieties of each vegetable are planted in high and low tunnels.

Low tunnel beds are about three feet wide with covers suspended with thick wipe hoops about eighteen inches off the ground. The cover is taken off mid-spring to allow full growth of the crop. Different types of covers are used at different times of year to promote growth and for insulation. The Produce Overwintering Program is using 6-mil greenhouse plastic, 1-mil perforated plastic, heavy weight winter row cover, and mid-weight row cover.

A high tunnel is a greenhouse frame with plastic cover but with no utilities and an open floor so vegetable seedlings can be planted directly into the ground. The protective cover is two layers of 6-mil greenhouse plastic inflated with air. The high tunnel has non-motorized roll-up sides and louvered vents on the end to dissipate heat. Row covers are used mid-winter for extra cold protection.

The experiment will evaluate both high tunnel versus low tunnel production success and production viability of five varieties of broccoli and cabbage. Varieties will be statistically analyzed based on yield weight, size and marketability.

"Information on varieties abilities to survive in various temperature and exposures as well as flowering cycles is particularly needed," said Bryan who uses season extension techniques like growing vegetables in low tunnels to provide a year-round supply of produce for his customers and income for the farm.



Cabbage growing in January under low tunnels inside a high tunnel. Photo courtesy of Robert Durgy, CAES' Griswold Research Center.

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According to Rob's research, one of the key elements to season extension is creating a small microclimate close to the ground to grow crops that would normally not grow at that time of year.

"If it's 30-degrees out, it's 60-degrees under cover," said Bryan who grows three acres of spinach, arugula, and other leafy greens under double-layers of plastic in the winter and early spring.



A bed of spinach planted in winter is ready for harvest in the spring at Tobacco Road Farm in Lebanon, CT.

"We are in constant production one season to another - doesn't matter if it's winter or fall," said Bryan. "As soon as a crop is done it's turned in and we plant another one, so we're getting three to four crops a year out of a piece of land. It's very intensive and we're getting very high yields."

The ability to grow and harvest fresh Connecticut Grown vegetables during the winter allows farmers to continue selling vegetables during the off season.



The Kaitlin variety of cabbage had the best results in early stages of the CAES Produce Overwintering Program.

During the winter months Tobacco Road Farm sells produce at the [Storrs Winter Farmers Market](#), at the [Willimantic Food Co-op](#), and through the [CT Farm Fresh Express](#) distribution facility in East Haddam. Some Connecticut farms- like [Gresczyk Farms](#) in New Hartford, [Sub Edge Farm](#) in Avon/ Farmington, and [Provider Farm](#) in Salem- offer winter season Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs.

The popularity of winter season CSA programs continues to grow in Connecticut. People who are interested in eating locally grown food year round are finding farmers that use season extension techniques to source Connecticut Grown vegetables during the cold months. For a listing of Connecticut farms that offer CSA programs go to <https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/Marketing/Marketing/CSA-Listing>.

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

66-R. Beautiful winter squash, Acorn, Butternut, Kabocha, by the box or bin East Windsor, Conn. Call Karl 860-268-5931 or Glenn 860-930-4331 to arrange pickup

68-R. Christmas greens, wreaths and roping, many sizes and varieties. Great for fund raisers. 203-457-1344

70-R. Tractor, Mower, and Snow plow to be sold as a unit. Tractor is a 1958 Massey Ferguson model 65 with splitter valve conversion and dual hydraulic remotes. Tires 15.5x28. Loaded with rim guard and complete with tire chains. Tractor has 4 cyl Continental gasoline engine approximately 50 horse power. 8 1/2 ft western snow plow with hydraulic angel unit. Mower is John Deere model 5 sickle bar unit concerted to 3 P.H. All units in very good condition. \$5,500 firm. Call 860-423-6748

75-R. 1,000+ hemp plants for sale to licensed growers. 4" pots (cherry blossom). Call 203-623-2694

77-R. Heifers, crossbred beef, Hereford/Angus, April calves. \$450 each. 2 available. Call 860-537-1974

78-R. B&W Farm photos by Jack McConnell, now 50% off. Open Studio Nov 9&10, 16&17 from 11am-5pm at 182 Broad Street, Wethersfield; or by appt 860-563-6154. See photos at JackMcConnellPhotography.com and click on Collections-CT Farm Project.

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

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

74. Running Gator wanted. Reasonable priced. Call leave message 203-259-0380. Will call back

MISCELLANEOUS

65-R. Connecticut Greenhouse Co. 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

80-R. Burlington, CT. Free 20+ pine logs 18"x4' Perfect for outdoor furnace, dry a year. Call 860-673-1025 or 203-509-4361

AG JOB CONNECTION

81-R. New London is seeking a planner/manager for two farmers' markets. Market's July-October. 860-460-3385, Art http://fog.newlondonfarmersmarket.com/?page_id=718

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	1.26	1.49
LARGE	1.20	1.34
MEDIUM	.95	1.08

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	1.63	1.79
LARGE	1.51	1.61
MEDIUM	1.12	1.29
SMALL	.69	.79

LANCASTER, PA LIVESTOCK

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted

SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Choice 2-3	110.00	114.00
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	49.00	55.00
boners 80-85% lean	48.00	54.50
lean 88-90% lean	40.00	46.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
100-146 lbs	160.00	210.00
Choice 1-2		
70-75 lbs	200.00	220.00
80-89 lbs	175.00	192.00
Choice 2-3		
90-99 lbs	170.00	185.00
100-134 lbs	150.00	185.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS: Per head/ Est. weight		
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
30-49 lbs	110.00	125.00
50-59 lbs	140.00	165.00
60-69 lbs	165.00	180.00
70-79 lbs	170.00	200.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
100-149 lbs	175.00	215.00
150-199 lbs	205.00	250.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
100-149 lbs	225.00	250.00
150-199 lbs	265.00	325.00

DAIRY CATTLE

New Holland, PA. Price per animal.

FRESH/MILKING COWS		
SUPREME	1400.00	2200.00
APPROVED	1000.00	1400.00
MEDIUM	600.00	950.00
BRED COWS		
APPROVED	1000.00	1250.00
SPRINGER COWS:		
APPROVED	900.00	1350.00
BRED HEIFERS		
APPROVED	600.00	800.00
MEDIUM	350.00	475.00
SPRINGER HEIFERS:		
APPROVED	850.00	1250.00
MEDIUM	700.00	825.00
OPEN HEIFERS		
APPROVED	175.00	500.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT

Price per ton, small squares. November 11, 2019

ALFALFA/ GRASS		
SUPREME	490.00	490.00
PREMIUM	375.00	420.00
FAIR	250.00	250.00
GRASS HAYS		
PREMIUM	400.00	410.00
GOOD	290.00	385.00
FAIR	195.00	260.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices
CONNECTICUT AND NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LBS	14.00	15.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 80S	31.00	32.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 88S	31.00	32.00
APPLE, RED DEL, USFCY, 125S	18.00	19.00
APPLE, RED DEL, USFCY, 138S	18.00	19.00
APPLE PEARS,CRTN,SHINKO,16S	16.00	16.00
APPLE PEARS,CRTN,SHINKO,18S	16.00	16.00
BEANS, ROUND GREEN,1 BU	36.00	40.00
BEANS, CRANBERRY,1 BU	40.00	45.00
BEANS, WAX,1 BU	36.00	40.00
BEAN SPROUTS,10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BROCCOLI, CRTN, 14S	16.00	22.00
CABBAGE,GRN, 50 LB. SACKS	9.00	10.00
CAULIFLOWER, CRT, 9S	30.00	36.00
CAULIFLOWER, CRT, 12S	30.00	36.00
CIDER, APPLE, 4-1 GAL	20.00	20.00
CIDER, APPLE, 9-1/2 GAL	22.00	22.00
CRANBERRIES, 24- 12 OZ BAGS	27.00	29.00
POTATOES,RUSSET,50LB,#1,70S	20.00	21.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, 1/2 BU	19.00	25.00
RADISHES,RED, BNCH 24S	13.00	15.00
SQUASH, ACORN,1-1/9, M	14.00	18.00
SQUASH, BNUT,1 1/9 BU, M	14.00	18.00
SQUASH, BCUP,1 1/9 BU, M	14.00	18.00
SQUASH, SPAGHETTI,1-1/9, M	14.00	18.00

SHIPPED IN

Price Range. Per unit.

APPLE,FUJI, NY,XFCY,64S	31.00	31.00
APPLE,FUJI, NY,FCY, 125S	19.00	19.00
APPLE,GNGR GLD,NY,XFCY,64S	32.00	32.00
APPLE,GNGR GLD,NY,XFCY,80S	32.00	32.00
APPLE,GNGR GLD,NY,XFCY,88S	32.00	32.00
APPLE, MAC, NY,US ONE, 125S	18.00	18.00
APPLE, PAULA RED, XFCY, 80S	32.00	32.00
APPLE, PAULA RED, XFCY, 100S	26.00	28.00
BEETS, RED, NJ, 12S, BNCH	16.00	20.00
BEETS, GOLD, CND,12S, BNCH	15.00	20.00
BRUSSEL SPROUTS,CA,25 LB	30.00	34.00
CABBAGE, GRN, NY, 50 LB	8.00	12.00
CABBAGE, NAPPA, NJ, 10-12'S	15.00	22.00
CABBAGE, RED,NY, 50 LB, M/L	12.00	14.00
CABBAGE, SAVOY, CND, 40 LB	15.00	18.00
CARROTS, CA, BUNCHED, 24	20.00	23.00
COLLARDS,GA, CRTN, 12S	13.00	15.00
ESCAROLE, CND,1 1/9 BU	14.00	18.00
KALE,GA, CRTN, BNCH, 12'S	13.00	16.00
KOHLRABI, CRTN, BNCH, 12'S	18.00	20.00
MESCLUN MIX, CA, 3LB CRTN	6.50	7.00
MUSHROOM,OYSTER,5 LB CRTN	18.00	20.00
ONION, GREEN LEEK,CA, 12S	20.00	24.00
ONION, RED GLOBE, ID/OR,25 LB	10.00	12.00
ONION, YELLOW, NY, 50 LBS	13.00	13.00
PARSLEY,CURLY,CRTN, 60S	18.00	21.00
PARSNIPS,MI, 20 LB BAG, LOOSE	26.00	26.00
PUMPKIN, PIE,PA, 24" BIN, M	180.00	200.00
PUMPKIN, PIE,PA, 36" BIN, M	240.00	300.00
SPINACH,SAVOY,BU,24S	22.00	26.00
SQUASH, KABOCHA, PA,1-1/9,M	20.00	22.00
SWEET POTATOES, NJ, 40 LB	26.00	28.00
SWT POTATOES,NJ,WHT,20 LB	25.00	25.00
TURNIPS,GA,PRPL TO, 25 LB	14.00	18.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - November 11, 2019

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	n/a	n/a
61-75 lbs.	n/a	n/a
76-90 lbs.	8.00	10.00
91-105 lbs.	12.50	15.00
106 lbs. & up	25.00	30.00
Farm Calves	n/a	n/a
Starter Calves	n/a	n/a
Veal Calves	75.00	110.00
Feeder Heifers	65.00	110.00
Beef Heifers	55.00	67.00
Feeder Steers	75.00	105.00
Beef Steers	59.00	81.00
Feeder Bulls	60.00	75.00
Beef Bulls	63.00	70.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	1@	12.50
Sows	22.50	30.00
Butcher Hogs	30.00	80.00
Feeder Pigs each	15.00	20.00
Sheep each	30.00	40.00
Lambs each	85.00	200.00
Goats each	95.00	275.00
Kid Goats each	60.00	175.00
Canners	up to	49.50
Cutters	50.00	53.00
Utility Grade Cows	54.00	57.00
Rabbits each	10.00	35.00
Chickens each	5.00	25.00
Ducks each	3.00	15.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

SLAUGHTER HOGS		
BARROWS AND GILTS		
US 1 222-285 lbs	64.00	70.00
US 1-2 208-294 lbs	50.00	65.00
US 2-3 208-293 lbs	45.00	57.00
SOWS		
US 1-2 424-495 lbs	35.00	45.00
US 1-2 612-668 lbs	41.00	44.00

BOSTON MARKET ORGANIC

Price Range. Per unit.

APPLE, FUJI, WA, XFCY, 80'S	35.00	35.00
APPLE, GALA,TRAY PK,100'S	38.00	38.00
BROCCOLI, 20 LB CRTN	10.00	10.00
CABBAGE,GRN, 45 LB CRT	23.00	23.00
CABBAGE,RED, 45 LB CRT	31.00	31.00
CARROTS, CA, 25 LB LOOSE	23.00	24.00
KALE, BNCH, 12S, CRT	25.00	25.00
MESCLUN MIX, CA, 3 LB	6.50	10.00
MUSHROOMS, WHITE,12-8OZ	17.00	17.00
ONION, GREEN, CRTN, 48S	10.00	10.00
PEARS, BARTLETT, 4/5 BU	36.00	36.00
PEARS, BOSCO,4/5 BU	36.00	36.00
SWEET POTATOES,#1, 40 LB	37.00	43.00
TOMATOES, GRAPE, 12-1 PT	14.00	14.00



NEW ENGLAND VEGETABLE & FRUIT CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for the 2019 New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference. This conference will take place in Manchester, NH on December 10-12, 2019.

The New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference and Trade Show includes more than 25 educational sessions over 3 days, covering major vegetable, berry and tree fruit crops as well as various special topics. A Farmer to Farmer meeting after each morning and afternoon session will bring speakers and farmers together for informal, in-depth discussion on certain issues. Go to <https://newenglandvfc.org/registration> to register online. For assistance with registration call 207-933-2100 or email mark.hutton@maine.edu. For more information about the conference go to <https://newenglandvfc.org>.

NHLT-NHF SEEKING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The New Haven Land Trust-New Haven Farms (NHLT-NHF) is seeking applications for Executive Director of this newly merged organization. The mission of NHLT-NHF is to partner with people to care for our urban landscape so all people discover, access, and enjoy the lands and waters that provide food, health, and life. This is a tremendous opportunity for an innovative nonprofit leader to grow an organization that is working at the intersection of urban agriculture, public health, food access, participatory community development, environmental education and stewardship, and youth development. For the complete position profile and application guidelines please visit <https://careers-tsne.icims.com/jobs/1476/executive-director/job>.

CONNECTICUT AG WELLNESS SUMMIT

UConn Extension is hosting the Connecticut Ag Wellness Summit on December 5, 2019 at Maneeley's Conference Center 65 Rye Street, South Windsor, CT. This event is a follow up to UConn Extension's Farmer Stress Support Training that was held for Connecticut Ag Service Providers in May 2019.

This free event is for farmers, producers, and ag service providers, including veterinarians in Connecticut. Space is limited. Please RSVP to mackenzie.white@uconn.edu or 860-875-3331 by November 26, 2019. For more information go to <http://s.uconn.edu/farmstress>.

SARE PROGRAM SEEKING APPLICATIONS

The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program is seeking applications for 2020 Farmer Grant projects. Applications are due December 3, 2019. Funded projects will be announced and may begin in late February 2020.

Farmer Grants provide research funds for commercial farms to explore new ideas in almost any aspect of production, marketing and other topics that influence successful farming in the 12 Northeast states and the District of Columbia. Reviewers look for innovation, potential for improved sustainability and results that will be useful to other farmers.

Application materials, including detailed instructions and supporting documents, are posted on the Northeast SARE website at northeastsare.org/FarmerGrant. Questions about the grant program should be directed to Carol Delaney, grant program coordinator, at carol.delaney@uvm.edu.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



CTGrown.gov

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