

# Agricultural Report

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



Wednesday, December 4, 2019

## CONNECTICUT GROWN CHRISTMAS TREES

*Bureau of Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation*

Buying a fresh-cut Connecticut Grown Christmas tree is a fun, family tradition that supports Connecticut farmers while often enjoying winter agritourism activities like wagon or sleigh rides, hot cocoa, and visits with Santa.

Kathy Kogut, co-owner of Kogut's Hemlock Hill Farm in Meriden said getting a Christmas tree is certainly a family tradition.

"Families find a spot they like and go back year after year," said Kathy. "Some have Santa, hot chocolate, photo ops, even tail gaiting. They make a day out of it."

Kathy, who is also Executive Director of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association (CCTGA), said sales of Christmas trees were brisk the first weekend after Thanksgiving for many Connecticut Christmas tree growers.

"This weekend was slamming" said Kathy. "Between all the hype about the limited supply of trees, the impending snowstorm, plus the season is six days shorter than normal this year. That's what made it so busy this weekend."

Kathy says the economic recession of 2008 is to blame for the limited supply of trees today.

"A lot of farmers didn't plant (in 2008) because land was so expensive," said Kathy. Because it takes 8-10 years for Christmas trees to mature, the lack of planting 10 years ago has led to the current limited supply."

Kathy said a lot of Connecticut Christmas tree farms supplement sales of their own Connecticut Grown trees with

trees from other parts of the country. She said the Fraser fir is the most popular tree, but it is native to North Carolina and is not widely grown in Connecticut. The white spruce is native to Connecticut and it is widely grown and available in the state.

Kathy also attributes the nationwide limit supply of Christmas trees to droughts out west, and flooding in the southern states. New England's supply of Christmas trees has been impacted by an October ice storm in Maine and flooding in Massachusetts that impacted several large growers in 2019.

An increase in the cost of transportation has caused the price of out-of-state Christmas trees to go up, while the cost of Connecticut Grown trees has remained stable.

"The average tree is between \$40 and \$50 in most of Connecticut," said Kathy. "Out-of-state trees cost more because of the cost of freight."

Not only are Connecticut Grown Christmas trees more affordable than out-of-state trees, they are also fresher. Christmas trees from out-of-state may have been cut a week before

being shipped to Connecticut. Connecticut Grown Christmas trees are often sold as cut-your-own, which gives customers the option of cutting the tree themselves or picking it out for the farmer to cut that day.

"A Christmas tree can stay in a house for four to six weeks if kept properly," said Kathy.

Kathy said there are about 500 Christmas tree growers in Connecticut, out of which 215 are CCTGA members. She esti-

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mates about 70% of Connecticut Christmas tree growers are “mom and pop shops” that grow and sell about 200-300 trees per year. She said about 20% of CCTGA members are large growers, like Dzen Tree Farm in South Windsor and Jones Family Farms in Shelton, which sell thousands of trees year.



*Maple Hollow Tree Farm Wreath Shop.*

One mid-size Connecticut Christmas tree grower is Maple Hollow Tree Farm in New Hartford. Maple Hollow currently sells about 1,000 trees per year. In 2018, Maple Hollow Farm was awarded a \$22,000 Farm Transition Grant from the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) for a project to construct an expanded wreath shop that will providing an inviting retail space for the existing Christmas tree farm and wreath business.

“Construction of Maple Hollow Tree Farm’s wreath shop has provided our growing business the opportunity to display our own holiday wreaths and arrangements in a controlled environment,” said James Steadman, Jr. of Maple Hollow Tree Farm. “In the long term, the project helps supports the production of different ornamental shrubs and evergreens and allows our local Christmas tree business to provide local products that are otherwise overwhelmingly supplied by national and international distributors.”



*Maple Hollow Tree Farm Wreath Shop.*

The grant has enabled the farm to expand production to 2,000 trees by 2023. The new wreath shop was completed in October 2019 and is now open for business.

For a listing of Cut-Your-Own Christmas tree farms visit DoAg’s website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/ADaRC/Publications/Pick-Your-Own-Christmas-Tree-By-County>.

The CCTGA also maintains a listing of CCTGA members that offer Cut-Your-Own and retail farm Christmas tree sales at <https://www.ctchristmastree.org>.

## 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](http://www.bludon.com)

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://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

59-R. Compost, screened & unscreened Top Soil, Mulch. Pick up at any of our 3 yards. Supreme Forest Products. Southington, Harwinton, West Hartford. Please call 860-485-1636

60-R. E.R. Hinman Since 1830. Producing fine Native Hardwoods & Softwood. Rough sawn, planed, kiln dried lumber. Native Hemlock for your out building needs. For the Farmer, Contractor, Homeowner. Please call 860-673-9170

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

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](mailto:RyanM01@comcast.net) or 860-655-0958. If no answer, leave message. All calls returned

### 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](http://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](http://fog.newlondonfarmersmarket.com/?page_id=718)

### CT FARM ENERGY WORKSHOPS

Are you a farm or rural small business who would like to reduce your energy consumption and costs? The CT RC&D and the CT Farm Energy Program will be hosting the following farm energy workshops covering energy efficiency and renewable energy options along with state and federal incentives:

- January 16, 2020, at 3:00 p.m., USDA Service Center - 238 W. Town St. Norwich, CT. Snow date: Jan. 17th at 3:00 p.m.
  - January 23, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., UConn Extension Center - 843 University Dr. Torrington, CT. Snow date: Jan. 30th at 2:00 p.m.
- For more information and for information on how to RSVP for the workshops go to <https://ctfarmenergy.org>.

**NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA**

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

XTRA LARGE	1.55	1.69
LARGE	1.52	1.66
MEDIUM	.90	1.03

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**

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

XTRA LARGE	1.76	1.89
LARGE	1.66	1.79
MEDIUM	1.21	1.31
SMALL	.69	.79

**LANCASTER, PA LIVESTOCK**

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted

<b>SLAUGHTER STEERS</b>		
Choice 2-3	112.00	116.00
<b>SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing</b>		
breakers 75-80% lean	53.00	60.00
boners 80-85% lean	48.00	54.50
lean 88-90% lean	41.00	46.00
<b>SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled &amp; Shorn</b>		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
100-145 lbs	195.00	235.00
Choice 1-2		
70-77 lbs	220.00	247.00
80-89 lbs	215.00	245.00
Choice 2-3		
90-99 lbs	200.00	225.00
100-149 lbs	175.00	215.00
<b>SLAUGHTER GOATS: Per head/ Est. weight</b>		
<b>SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1</b>		
40-49 lbs	145.00	155.00
50-59 lbs	150.00	165.00
60-69 lbs	160.00	175.00
70-79 lbs	175.00	190.00
<b>SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1</b>		
100-149 lbs	190.00	220.00
150-199 lbs	215.00	250.00
<b>SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1</b>		
100-149 lbs	235.00	280.00
150-199 lbs	290.00	340.00

**DAIRY CATTLE**

New Holland, PA. Price per animal.

<b>FRESH/MILKING COWS</b>		
APPROVED	1000.00	1475.00
MEDIUM	650.00	1050.00
<b>BRED COWS</b>		
APPROVED	900.00	1075.00
<b>SPRINGER COWS:</b>		
APPROVED	1025.00	1425.00
<b>BRED HEIFERS</b>		
APPROVED	575.00	975.00
MEDIUM	450.00	750.00
<b>SPRINGER HEIFERS:</b>		
APPROVED	800.00	1350.00
MEDIUM	500.00	725.00
<b>OPEN HEIFERS</b>		
APPROVED	325.00	600.00
MEDIUM	175.00	275.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT**

Price per ton, small squares. December 2, 2019

<b>ORCHARD/ TIMOTHY GRASS</b>		
GOOD	360.00	360.00
<b>ORCHARD GRASS</b>		
GOOD	355.00	355.00
<b>TIMOTHY GRASS</b>		
GOOD	320.00	320.00

**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
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BROCCOLI, CRTN, 14S	16.00	18.00
CABBAGE, GRN, 50 LB. SACKS	8.00	10.00
CABBAGE, GRN, 50 LB CRTN	14.00	16.00
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
CRANBERRIES, 25 LB CRTN	33.00	36.00
POTATO, RND RED, 50LB, SZB	12.00	12.00
POTATO, RND WHT, 50LB, CHEF	14.00	14.00
POTATOES, RUSSET, 50LB, #1, 70S	20.00	21.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, 1/2 BU	19.00	25.00
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
TURNIPS, PRPL TOP, 25 LB	12.00	14.00

**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, SC, 12S, BNCH	18.00	22.00
BEETS, GOLD, CND, 12S, BNCH	13.00	14.00
BRUSSEL SPROUTS, AZ/CA, 25 LB	32.00	36.00
CABBAGE, RED, GA, 50 LB, M/L	16.00	20.00
CABBAGE, SAVOY, CND, 40 LB	16.00	20.00
CARROTS, CA, BUNCHED, 24	20.00	23.00
CAULIFLOWER, AZ/CA, CRT, 12S	16.00	18.00
COLLARDS, GA, CRTN, 12S	13.00	15.00
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, AZ/CA, 12S	30.00	32.00
ONION, RED GLOBE, NY, 25 LB	10.00	11.00
PARSNIPS, MI, 20 LB BAG, LOOSE	25.00	25.00
RUTABAGA, CND, 50 LB SACKS	26.00	26.00
SPINACH, SAVOY, BU, 24S	22.00	26.00
SWEET POTATOES, NC, 40 LB	26.00	28.00
SWT POTATOES, NJ, WHT, 20 LB	25.00	25.00

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT - December 2, 2019

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	n/a	n/a
61-75 lbs.	n/a	n/a
76-90 lbs.	n/a	n/a
91-105 lbs.	8.00	10.00
106 lbs. & up	15.00	20.00
Farm Calves	1@	50.00
Starter Calves	n/a	n/a
Veal Calves	n/a	n/a
Feeder Heifers	n/a	n/a
Beef Heifers	64.00	68.00
Feeder Steers	n/a	n/a
Beef Oxen	39.00	41.00
Feeder Bulls	110.00	130.00
Beef Bulls	59.00	61.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	2@	70.00
Feeder Pigs each	n/a	n/a
Sheep each	65.00	90.00
Lambs each	100.00	140.00
Goats each	135.00	300.00
Kid Goats each	65.00	130.00
Canners	up to	60.00
Cutters	61.00	64.00
Utility Grade Cows	65.00	68.00
Rabbits each	6.00	9.00
Chickens each	3.00	11.00
Ducks each	n/a	n/a

**NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION**

Per cwt.

<b>SLAUGHTER HOGS</b>		
<b>BARROWS AND GILTS</b>		
US 1-2 223-299 lbs	50.00	63.00
US 1-2 300-325 lbs	54.00	64.00
US 2-3 240-297 lbs	42.00	51.00
US 2-3 300-319 lbs	40.00	44.00
<b>SOWS</b>		
US 1-2 480-491 lbs	33.00	34.50
US 1-2 503-598 lbs	31.00	35.00

**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
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
GARLIC, 30 LB CRTN	75.00	75.00
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, RED GLOBE, 50 LB	30.00	30.00
PEARS, BARTLETT, 4/5 BU	36.00	36.00
PEARS, BOSCO, 4/5 BU	36.00	36.00
POTATO, RND RED, 50LB, 70S	34.00	34.00
POTATO, RUSSET, 50LB, 70S	38.00	38.00
SWEET POTATOES, #1, 40 LB	37.00	43.00

## 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. For more information about the conference go to <https://newenglandvfc.org>.

## ARTISAN DAIRY FOOD SAFETY PLAN WORKSHOP

UConn is hosting a coaching workshop intended for artisan cheese and dairy food producers who are preparing to develop, or are already developing, a Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) compliant, preventive control (PC)-based, food safety plan for their facility.

The two-day workshop will be held January 16-17, 2020 at the Hartford Times Building, 10 Prospect Street, Hartford, CT. The generous support of the USDA allows this course to be provided at a reduced cost to artisan dairy producers for \$49. Registrations and payments must be received by January 9, 2020. This course is limited to the first 20 registrants.

For more information and registration go to <https://dairyextension.foodscience.cornell.edu/programs/artisan-dairy-food-safety-coaching/>.

## HEMP PRODUCER LISTENING SESSIONS

Topics will include: Information from the 2019 Growing Season, New USDA Hemp Regulations, CT Agriculture Experiment Station research, and Q&A with DoAg staff.

- Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 5:30 - 7:30 PM  
UConn Avery Point Campus Auditorium, Groton, CT
- Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 5:30 - 7:30 PM  
CT Agricultural Experiment Station Auditorium, New Haven, CT
- Thursday, December 5, 2019, 5:30 - 7:30 PM  
Litchfield County Extension Center Meeting Room, Torrington, CT
- Thursday, December 12, 2019, 5:30 - 7:30 PM  
UConn Storrs, WB Young Building Room 101, Storrs, CT  
Growers, Processors, and Manufacturers are encouraged to attend. Great networking opportunity! Please RSVP to: [AGR.Hemp@ct.gov](mailto:AGR.Hemp@ct.gov); 860-713-2502. [www.CTGrown.gov/hemp](http://www.CTGrown.gov/hemp).

## PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE- BACK TO BASICS

Farmers of all experience are encouraged to join the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, University of Connecticut, and the American Farmland Trust on Thursday, January 9, 2020 from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Tolland Agricultural Center in Vernon, Connecticut to hear the latest in IPM, soil management, and water programs. Aaron Ristow of the American Farmland Trust will discuss his findings on the economic and environmental impacts of soil health practices. This is a free program and pesticide credits will be offered. For more information or to register, please contact Erin Windham at 860-713-2543 or [Erin.Windham@ct.gov](mailto:Erin.Windham@ct.gov).

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE



CTGrown.gov

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**Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2019.**

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