Connecticut residents are well aware of our farms, but generally don’t think about our thriving industry that farms under the water.

Our state has 50,000 acres of leased shellfish beds across Long Island Sound, which produces millions of fresh oysters, clams, and other shellfish for locals and visitors to enjoy, especially at your picnics and barbecues to celebrate the 4th of July.

According to the Connecticut State Register and Manual, the Eastern oyster was designated as the State Shellfish by the General Assembly in 1989. The oyster, which is a bivalve mollusk, thrives naturally in Connecticut’s tidal rivers and coastal embayments and is cultivated by the oyster industry in the waters of the Long Island Sound.

Oysters were consumed in great quantities by Connecticut’s native American inhabitants, and early European settlers found oysters to be a staple and reliable food source. The first colonial laws regulating the taking of oysters in Connecticut appeared in the early 1700’s.

Oyster farming developed into a major industry in the State by the late 19th century. During the 1890’s, Connecticut held the distinction of having the largest fleet of oyster steamers in the world.

Today, Connecticut’s oyster industry continues to thrive. Thousands of bushels of these delicious Connecticut Grown mollusks are marketed throughout the country annually. Of all the shellfish species associated with the Connecticut shoreline, the oyster is by far the best known for its colorful history, continued economic importance and esteemed reputation for quality.

Connecticut restaurants are a great place to enjoy fresh Connecticut shellfish prepared for you. Go to dine/seaf ood to for a list of Connecticut seafood restaurants that are guaranteed to please—from the freshest catch of the day to clam chowder and oysters on the half shell.

Connecticut is home to several festivals that celebrate oysters including the Milford Oyster Festival and the Norwalk Oyster Festival.

The 45th Annual Milford Oyster Festival will be held in Downtown Milford on August 17, 2019. About 30,000 oysters, all harvested in Milford waters, are expected to be sold during the festival. For more information about the Milford Oyster Festival go to https://milfordoysterfestival.com.

The Norwalk Oyster Festival will held September 6 – 8, 2019 at Veterans Memorial Park in Norwalk. A host of national, local and regional musical acts will perform continuously throughout the weekend on several stages throughout the festival area. The festival offers a range of activities and entertainment that the whole family will enjoy. For more information go to http://www.ctvisit.com/events/norwalk-oyster-festival.

Connecticut shellfish are also available to buy and enjoy at home through grocery stores and fish markets. A lot of Connecticut farmers’ markets now offer seafood, including shellfish. Go to https://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3260&g=398996 for a listing of Connecticut farmers’ markets and find a market near you that offers shellfish. For more information about how to shuck an oyster go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jxz2O2qWnoY.

There is an old myth that says you should only eat oysters during months that include the letter “R”. This myth may have originated as a practice to avoid health hazards associated with shipping raw seafood in an age before refrigeration.

Modern refrigeration and Con-
WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES
Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices
CONNECTICUT AND NEW ENGLAND GROWN

APPLE, FUJI, NY, XFCY, 64 31.00 31.00
APPLE, FUJI, NY, XFCY, 125 19.00 18.00
APPLE, JONAGOLD, NY, XFCY, 125 24.00 24.00
BEANS, FAVA, NJ, 1 BU 30.00 32.00
BEANS, GREEN, NJ, 1 BU 40.00 40.00
BEETS, RED, NJ, BNCN 12S 17.00 18.00
BEETS, GOLD, NJ, BNCN 12S 22.00 22.00
BLUEBERRIES, GA, 12-1 PT 18.00 21.00
BOK CHOY, NJ, 2 BU 33.00 33.00
BROCOLLI, CTN, CA, 1/4'S 17.00 22.00
CABBAGE, GRN, NJ, 50 LB 15.00 18.00
CABBAGE, RED, NJ, 50 LB, M/L 18.00 22.00
CABBAGE, NAPA, GA, 50 LB 24.00 28.00
CARROTS, CA, BUNCHED, 24 22.00 24.00
COLLARDS, NJ, 1 3/5 BU, 12 S 13.00 18.00
CUCUMBER, NJ, 1 1/9 BU, MED 24.00 28.00
CUKE, PICKLES, GA, 150-200 36.00 40.00
Eggplant, GA, 1 1/9 BU, MED 12.00 14.00
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 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 25.00 26.00
PARSLEY, PLAIN, NJ, CTN, 60 S 24.00 26.00
SPINACH, SAV, NJ, 1 3/5 BU, LSE 20.00 20.00
SQUASH, ZUC, NJ, 1/2 BU, S 14.00 20.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, GA, 1/2 BU, S 20.00 20.00
SWISS CHARD, MIXED, NJ, 24 S 18.00 18.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION
Middlefield, CT - June 24, 2019

LOW   HIGH
Bob Calves: 45-60 lbs. 10.00 15.00
61-75 lbs. 25.00 30.00
76-90 lbs. 35.00 40.00
91-105 lbs. 45.00 50.00
Farm Calves 65.00 70.00
Starter Calves n/a n/a
Veal Calves 70.00 120.00
Feeder Heifers 70.00 107.50
Beef Heifers 75.00 117.50
Feeder Steers 65.00 100.00
Beef Steers 76.00 120.00
Feeder Bulls 80.00 100.00
Beef Bulls 66.00 81.00
Replacement Cows n/a n/a
Replacement Heifers n/a n/a
Boars n/a n/a
Sows n/a n/a
Butcher Hogs n/a n/a
Feeder Piglets each n/a
Sheep each 40.00 60.00
Lambs each 50.00 200.00
Goats each 55.00 220.00
Kid Goats each 45.00 165.00
Canners up to 61.00
Cutters 62.00 66.00
Utility Grade Cows 67.00 71.00
Rabbits each 5.00 28.00
Chickens each 4.00 18.00
Ducks each 10.00 17.00
Pigeons each 4.00 10.00

DAIRY CATTLE
New Holland, PA. Price per animal.
FRESH/MILKING COWS
APPROVED 1100.00 1600.00
AMERICAN 750.00 1075.00
BRED HEIFERS:
APPROVED 775.00 825.00
SPRINGER HEIFERS:
SUPREME 1175.00 1325.00
APPROVED 950.00 1200.00
OPEN HEIFERS
APPROVED 200.00 250.00
MEDIUM 200.00 325.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT
Price per ton, small squares. June 24, 2019
ALFALFA/ GRASS
SUPREME 400.00 450.00
PREMIUM 325.00 345.00
GOOD 230.00 265.00
GRASS HAYS
GOOD 290.00 310.00
FAIR 240.00 265.00
Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg)’s Bureau of Aquaculture inspection and regulatory programs have made shellfish safely available to consumers year-round, including the summer months.

DoAg’s Bureau of Aquaculture consistently maintains monitoring programs as an early warning system.

DoAg collaborates with partner agencies, like the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to respond to any potential events before they occur.

Recreational shellfishing (or clamming or clam digging) is a fun sport and great way to get out into nature and enjoy the state’s waterfront environments. Recreational shellfishing in Connecticut is limited to approved areas.


2018 NRCS CIG GRANT ASSISTS CT SHELLFISH

In 2018, Connecticut Sea Grant and the Department of Agriculture were awarded a USDA-NRCS CIG Program grant aimed at shellfish restoration. The project, called the Conservation, Management, and Restoration Priorities and Practices for Connecticut Shellfish, is now in the early stages.

The grant will advance the Connecticut Shellfish Initiative, a stakeholder-based effort to develop a Vision Plan for the future of Connecticut shellfish and shellfisheries.

The first phase involves using spatial data (provided by NRCS’ Coastal Zone Soil Survey) to identify areas that are potentially suitable for shellfish restoration and areas that are not.

Coastal soil surveys provide detailed spatial data, chemical and physical properties of the soil, and suitability and limitations of the soil. The data is useful for marine spatial planning, aquaculture, and coastal and near-shore restoration projects for the more than 77,000 acres of shellfish beds located in the waters off Connecticut’s coastline.

This proposal specifically addresses Connecticut’s CIG Priority for last year, which was Aquatic Resources. It is also aimed to better position restoration practitioners for funding under one of the EQIP’s Conservation Practice Standards titled, Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities.

The goal of the CIG is to develop a comprehensive shellfish conservation, management and restoration plan that addresses barriers and recommends high priority projects and practices for Connecticut. This process will engage partners and key stakeholder groups to facilitate permitting and investment in shellfish restoration.
CONTAINER PRODUCTION WORKSHOP
UConn is sponsoring a Water and Nutrient Management for Container Production Workshop on Thursday, July 11, 2019; 9:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT.
Attendees will learn how to properly monitor and use irrigation water and fertilizers in soilless media.
The early registration fee is $40 per person. Online registration will end July 9, 2019. For more information call 860-626-6855 or go to https://greenhouse.uconn.edu/workshop.

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 workshop is part of Connecticut RC&D’s Healthy Soils Initiative. In collaboration with partners, this workshop will focus on the basics of silvopasture and agroforestry.
The day will include guest speakers, demonstrations, and field walks in rugged terrain. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Two CEU's from DEEP Forestry Division will be available for this event. The registration fee is $25 and lunch is included. For additional information and registration go to https://ctrcd.org/silvopasture-agroforestry-workshop. For more information, please contact Amanda at ajohnson@ctrcd.org or call 860.345.3977 x100.

NRCS ON-FARM TRIALS AND CIG GRANTS
The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for the National Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Program and On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials.
CIGs are competitive grants that drive public and private sector innovation in resource conservation. CIG projects inspire creative problem-solving that boosts production on farms, ranches, and private forests - ultimately, they improve water quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat.
The 2019 National CIG priorities are: increasing the pace and scale of conservation adoption, water quantity, pollinator habitat and urban agriculture. National CIG applications are due July 30, 2019.
Newly authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill, On-Farm Trials supports more widespread adoption of innovative approaches, practices and systems on working lands. On-Farm Trials projects feature collaboration between NRCS and partners to implement on-the-ground conservation activities and then evaluate their impact.
The Soil Health Demo Trial (SHD) component of On-Farm Trials focuses exclusively on implementation of conservation practices and systems that improve soil health. Eligible entities receiving SHD awards agree to follow consistent soil health assessment protocols to evaluate the impacts of practice and system implementation.