

# Agricultural Report

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



Wednesday, October 2, 2019

## CONNECTICUT GROWN PUMPKINS AND AUTUMN AGRITOURISM

*Bureau of Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation*

For many Connecticut families, buying and decorating pumpkins is a family tradition. 2019 has been a good year for pumpkins, which makes it a great year to support a local farmer by purchasing Connecticut Grown pumpkins this autumn.

The dry summer weather has helped to produce an above average pumpkin crop for many Connecticut farmers.

"It's been a very good year for pumpkins", said Henry Gresczyk, of Gresczyk Farms in New Hartford. "Much better than last year."

The wet summer of 2018 put a damper on many crops, especially crops like pumpkins and winter squash, which are susceptible to diseases, like downy mildew, that thrive in wet conditions

"Last year there was a lot of downy mildew," said Henry. "The rain brings it in worse."

Henry said the large variety of pumpkins offered by Gresczyk Farms is the biggest selling point for his customers.

"We grow more than 20 varieties of pumpkins, everything from Cinderella, and jack-o-lanterns to sugar pumpkins," said Henry. "Ten years ago we didn't sell any colored pumpkins, now it's nearly 50 percent."

Gresczyk Farms grows about eight acres of pumpkins on the 130 acre farm. Like many Connecticut pumpkin growers, Gresczyk Farms sells most of their pumpkins directly from their farm store, which is located at 860 Litchfield Turnpike in New Hartford, CT.

A listing of Farm Stand and Stores that sell Connecticut Grown products – many of which offer Connecticut Grown pumpkins, and winter squash, is available on the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg)'s website at [www.ctgrown.gov](http://www.ctgrown.gov).

In addition to pumpkins, Gresczyk Farms sells winter squash, and other Connecticut Grown products - including autumn decorations like Indian corn and mums- at their retail farm store and five farmers markets, and wholesale at the Hartford Regional Farmers Market.

Gresczyk Farms offers a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. For

many customers, the availability of pumpkins and winter squash signals the end of the summer season CSA, and the beginning of the winter season CSA which includes a wide assortment of winter squashes.

2019 has also been a very good year for winter squash. "You name it, we grow it." said Henry. "Butternut, Buttercup, Mashed Potatoes."

According to Henry, Butternut is still the most popular winter squash, but others squashes like Mashed Potatoes and Delicata are gaining popularity. Delicata is an heirloom squash with flavor similar to that of sweet potatoes. Mashed Potatoes squash is a stark-white Acorn squash that resembles mashed potatoes when cooked and fluffed.

Winter squash is a traditional storage crop that can be kept for a long period of time, without refrigeration and not spoil. Other storage crops include carrots, beets, and potatoes.

Most storage crops are harvested in the fall, then held for winter storage under low-temperature and humidity conditions.

"Some customers buy winter squash for storage at their house," said Henry. "We sell our own winter squash at the farm store until the end of February."

Some Connecticut farms are also a destination for family-friendly fall activities like hay rides and corn mazes. Connecticut offers more than two dozen corn mazes at farms throughout the state.

"Agritourism is an important component to keeping our farms thriving and encouraging consumers to learn more about where their food comes from and the importance of agriculture to Connecticut's economy and environment." said DoAg Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt.

March Farm is a fourth generation family farm and agritourism destination established in 1915, in Bethlehem, CT. The 150-acre farm includes more than 40,000 square feet of greenhouse space, 60 acres of sweet corn, 50 acres of apples, and 10 acres of pumpkins.

Over the past decade March Farm has



Connecticut Grown pumpkins.  
Photo courtesy of Gresczyk Farms.

*(continued on Page 3)*

**NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA**

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

XTRA LARGE	.66	.91
LARGE	.60	.74
MEDIUM	.47	.60

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**

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

XTRA LARGE	1.60	1.75
LARGE	1.42	1.56
MEDIUM	.95	1.09
SMALL	.69	.79

**LANCASTER, PA LIVESTOCK**

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted

<b>SLAUGHTER STEERS</b>		
Choice 2-3	107.00	117.00
<b>SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing</b>		
breakers 75-80% lean	57.00	61.00
boners 80-85% lean	54.00	59.00
lean 88-90% lean	44.00	54.00
<b>SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled &amp; Shorn</b>		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
93-99 lbs	200.00	210.00
100-112 lbs	195.00	205.00
Choice 1-2		
62-68 lbs	162.00	195.00
70-78 lbs	160.00	195.00
83-88 lbs	160.00	197.00
Choice 2-3		
91-98 lbs	170.00	197.00
100-145 lbs	162.00	190.00
<b>SLAUGHTER GOATS: Per head/ Est. weight</b>		
<b>SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1</b>		
50-55 lbs	135.00	165.00
60-65 lbs	140.00	185.00
70-75 lbs	150.00	175.00
<b>SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1</b>		
100-145 lbs	165.00	240.00
150-160 lbs	250.00	250.00
<b>SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1</b>		
100-145 lbs	200.00	325.00
150-190 lbs	235.00	405.00

**DAIRY CATTLE**

New Holland, PA. Price per animal.

<b>FRESH/MILKING COWS</b>		
APPROVED	1050.00	1525.00
MEDIUM	775.00	1100.00
<b>BRED COWS</b>		
APPROVED	975.00	975.00
<b>SPRINGER COWS:</b>		
APPROVED	1075.00	1350.00
<b>BRED HEIFERS</b>		
APPROVED	800.00	1100.00
<b>SPRINGER HEIFERS:</b>		
APPROVED	900.00	1225.00
<b>OPEN HEIFERS</b>		
APPROVED	260.00	550.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION**

Per cwt.

<b>SLAUGHTER HOGS</b>		
<b>BARROWS AND GILTS</b>		
US 1-2 205-294 lbs	41.00	51.00
US 1-2 215-297 lbs	51.00	72.00
<b>SOWS</b>		
US 1-2 320-345 lbs	32.00	38.00
513-514 lbs	26.00	26.00

**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, 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	14.00	16.00
BEANS, CRANBERRY, 1 BU	40.00	45.00
BEANS, WAX, 1 BU	24.00	26.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BROCCOLI, CRTN, 14S	15.00	20.00
CAULIFLOWER, CRT, 9S	16.00	16.00
CAULIFLOWER, CRT, 12S	18.00	18.00
CIDER, 4-1 GALLON	20.00	20.00
CIDER, 9-1/2 GALLON	22.00	22.00
CORN, BI-COLOR, 5 DZ	10.00	13.00
CORN, ORN, INDIAN, 20-3S	25.00	25.00
CORN, ORN, INDIAN, MINI, BU	25.00	25.00
CORN STALKS, 36" BIN, 25S	125.00	125.00
EGGPLANT, 1 1/9 BU, MED	10.00	13.00
GOURDS, ORN, 1/2 BU	21.00	24.00
POTATOES, RUSSET, #1, 70S	19.00	23.00
PUMPKIN, HOWDEN, PA, 24" BIN	285.00	385.00
PUMPKIN, MINI, 1/2 BU	18.00	20.00
RADISHES, RED, BNCH 24S	13.00	15.00
SQUASH, ACORN, GA, 1-1/9, M	14.00	18.00
SQUASH, BNUT, 1 1/9 BU, M	14.00	18.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, 1/2 BU, S	8.00	12.00
TOMS, VINE RIPE, 11 LB FLT, L	14.00	14.00
TOMS, VINE RIPES, 25 LB, M	12.00	13.00
TOMS, VINE RIPES, 25 LB, L	18.00	18.00
TOMS, CHERRY, 12- 10 OZ	24.00	25.00

**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
BEETS, RED, NJ, 12S, BNCH	16.00	18.00
BEETS, GOLD, CND, 12S, BNCH	20.00	20.00
CABBAGE, GRN, NJ, 50 LB	8.00	10.00
CABBAGE, NAPPA, NJ, 10-12'S	18.00	22.00
CABBAGE, RED, CND, 50 LB, M/L	16.00	22.00
CABBAGE, SAVOY, NJ, 40 LB	16.00	20.00
CARROTS, CA, BUNCHED, 24	20.00	23.00
CUCUMBER, PICKLE, NJ, 1 1/9 BU	26.00	30.00
KALE, CTN, BNCH, 12'S	13.00	15.00
ONION, RED GLOBE, ID/OR, 25 LB	11.00	12.00
ONION, YELLOW SPANISH, 25 LB	13.00	14.00
PEPPERS, LONG HOTS, NJ, 1 1/9	16.00	18.00
PUMPKIN, HOWDEN, PA, 36" BIN	200.00	200.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, PA, 24" BIN, M	185.00	185.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, PA, 36" BIN, M	250.00	250.00
SQUASH, KABOCHA, PA, 1-1/9, M	20.00	22.00
SQUASH, ZUCCHINI, 1/2 BU, S	8.00	13.00
SWEET POTATOES, NC, 40 LB	26.00	28.00
TURNIPS, GA, PRPL TOP, 25 LB	14.00	18.00

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT - September 30, 2019

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	n/a	n/a
61-75 lbs.	8.00	10.00
76-90 lbs.	12.50	15.00
91-105 lbs.	20.00	22.50
106 lbs. & up	25.00	30.00
Farm Calves	n/a	n/a
Starter Calves	n/a	n/a
Veal Calves	75.00	115.00
Feeder Heifers	80.00	115.00
Beef Heifers	67.50	72.50
Feeder Steers	n/a	n/a
Beef Steers	46.00	54.50
Feeder Bulls	90.00	110.00
Beef Bulls	65.00	75.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	1@	43.00
Butcher Hogs	54.00	60.00
Feeder Pigs each	5.00	35.00
Sheep each	50.00	105.00
Lambs each	55.00	185.00
Goats each	125.00	175.00
Kid Goats each	120.00	165.00
Canners	up to	54.00
Cutters	55.00	58.00
Utility Grade Cows	59.00	62.00
Rabbits each	5.00	25.00
Chickens each	3.00	18.00
Ducks each	6.00	15.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT**

Price per ton, small squares. September 30, 2019

ALFALFA/ GRASS		
PREMIUM	405.00	405.00
GOOD	240.00	330.00
GRASS HAYS		
PREMIUM	405.00	405.00
GOOD	250.00	325.00
FAIR	195.00	220.00

**BOSTON MARKET ORGANIC**

Price Range. Per unit.

APPLE, FUJI, WA, XFCY, 80'S	35.00	35.00
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
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
PEARS, BARTLETT, 4/5 BU	36.00	36.00
PEPPER, RED BELL, 11LB, XL	30.00	30.00
PEPPER, YEL BELL, 11LB, XL	30.00	30.00
PEPPER, ORA BELL, 11LB, XL	32.00	32.00
PEPPER, GRN BELL, 1 1/9BU, XL	27.00	27.00
SPINACH, BABY, 4 LB	13.50	13.50
SQUASH, ZUC, 1/2 BU, S-M	19.00	19.00
SQUASH, YEL, 1/2 BU, S-M	19.00	19.00
SWEET POTATOES, #1, 40 LB	37.00	43.00
TOMATOES, GRAPE, 12- 1 PT	14.00	14.00

*(continued from Page 1)*

expanded their pick-your-own, CSA and retail sales rather than growing for a wholesale market that rarely recognizes the increasing costs of labor, machinery, and seeds.

March Farm has also expanded agritourism efforts, previously winning Connecticut Magazines' Best Farm/Orchard Destination designation.

Fourth generation farmer, Ben March, said March Farm's agricultural attractions; such as a corn maze, playscape, animal yard, and hayrides; help to attract and retain customers.



*The Hayloft Playscape at March Farm. Photo courtesy of March Farm.*

"Future business plans will concentrate on improving the economic viability of the farm by continually expanding our reach as a premier agricultural destination," said Ben.

March Farm's also offers customers a farm store, bakery, event spaces, and seasonal special events.

Sub Edge Farm is a family farm, growing 15 acres of vegetables, fruits, flowers, and culinary herbs, which also offers customers farm-to-table dinners. Sub Edge Farm has partnered with nearby DORO Restaurant Group to host farm-to-table dinners on the farm which is located in Avon and Farmington.

Rodger Phillips of Sub Edge farm said the farm dinners are important to his customers.

"Our customers love the farm dinners and really look forward to them every year," said Rodger. "It is a totally unique experience to dine outside, under the stars eating food made from scratch from ingredients picked that day."



*Farm Dinners at Sub-Edge Farm. Photo courtesy of Nick Caito.*

The farm dinners also help to sustain and promote business for Sub-Edge Farm and connects customers with where their food comes from.

"We love to work with our restaurant partners. Having the farm-to-table dinners really creates a lot of buzz and adds value to what we do and keeps people coming back," said Rodger. "Most people have honestly never set foot on a farm so agritourism on real, working farms can definitely help educate folks about how good, clean local food is raised."

A DoAg listing of Connecticut farms that offer agritourism activities like corn mazes, hay rides, and on-farm agriculture festivals is available at: [www.ctgrown.gov](http://www.ctgrown.gov). For more ideas about exploring Connecticut agritourism go to: <http://www.ctvisit.com/articles/agritourism-connecticut>.

## 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)

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

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

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

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

67-R. Lynn Blackmer, Nationwide Farm Master Certified Agent, Woodstock, CT. Any type of farm-large or small, hobby or commercial. Discounts for being CFBA member for those who qualify. Cell: 860-377-8947. Early morning, during day, evening or weekend appointments available

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

69-R. Custom built 48"x72" steel compost/loam/gravel screener. New 212 cc motor. \$1800 OBO. 413-222-8232 or [MichaelLizee@gmail.com](mailto:MichaelLizee@gmail.com)

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

72-R. Round bales-Wrapped first cutting. Delivered or picked up. Call 203-264-2217

73-R. For sale Tractors, Farm eqpt, misc. farm supplies, Tractor parts and farm tools. Oct 5-6, Rt 85, Zagray Farm, Hebron /Colchester line. 860-918-8515.

### 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

58-R. Pollination Service, package bees, queens, bee-keeping equipment. Call Mark for information 860-883-3229

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

## FARM VIABILITY GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE NOVEMBER 12

Grant guidelines and applications for the Department of Agriculture's Farm Viability Grant program are available online and must be submitted by November 12. Grant guidelines and forms can be found at [www.CTGrown.gov/grants](http://www.CTGrown.gov/grants).

The Farm Viability Grant can provide matching funds to Connecticut municipalities, groups of municipalities, regional councils of governments, and/or agricultural non-profit organizations for projects that foster agricultural viability.

The maximum award under this program is \$49,999. Applicants must provide a 40% match through cash or in-kind services. Previously funded projects have included town-owned farm improvements, efforts related to farmland preservation, marketing and promotion for Certified CT Grown farmers' markets, and a host of other efforts that foster agriculture viability.

A workshop for new applicants on how to write a project plan and apply for the grant will be held on October 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association meeting room, 78 Beaver Road in Wethersfield. RSVP's are not required.

## 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](mailto:mark.hutton@maine.edu). For more information about the conference go to <https://newenglandvfc.org>.

## REGISTRATION FOR THE NORTHEAST GRAIN GAB CLOSING SOON!

This conference will gather growers, producers (including bakers, brewers and millers), and academics who are interested in contributing to the development of a regional grain economy in the Northeast US. To register and for more information visit: [www.graingab.com](http://www.graingab.com).

## UConn Extension OFFERS FREE SOIL TEST & HELP WITH CONSERVATION PLANS

UConn Extension is offering farmers help with conservation plans and a free soil test as part of the Long Island Sound Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

Soil tests are an important first step at assessing current soil resource conditions in order to adopt management strategies that promote nutrient retention and cycling within fields saving the producer time and money. Space in the program is limited. For more information call 860-486-7176 or email [Katherine.vanderwoude@uconn.edu](mailto:Katherine.vanderwoude@uconn.edu).

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CTGrown.gov

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**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  
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