There is nothing better on a crisp autumn day than the taste of a fresh Connecticut Grown apple.

Apple season is fully upon us and growers across the state have been reporting a good apple crop for 2019—much better than 2018.

The season has been running a little behind schedule at many orchards due to the long, hot summer, but the recent arrival of cool nights will bring the desired color and flavor to the apples before harvest.

“Timely rains early in the summer, and a cooler, drier late August and early September have made for excellent fruit quality,” said Jon Bronzi of Deercrest Farm. “This year’s crop is much nicer all around over last years, especially in varieties like Macoun and Honey Crisp,” said Jon.

Deercrest Farm grows 27 varieties of apples on about 50 acres in Glastonbury, CT. Apple varieties include Honey Crisp, Macoun, Gala, and Courtland, which Jon describes as the quintessential New England apple.

Connecticut farmers grow more than 60 varieties of apples in orchards across the state. Many farmers offer consumers the opportunity to buy fresh Connecticut Grown apples directly from their farm stands.

Plan your Connecticut orchard visits using the Apple Growers brochure, Apple Growers listing by county, and the Apple Varieties and Their Uses brochure available on the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) website at https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/Marketing/Marketing/Find-a-Farmer.

Fresh Connecticut Grown apples are also available for retail and wholesale purchase at the farmers’ market at the Hartford Regional Market located at 101 Reserve Road, Hartford, CT. The greatest selection of vendors and products can be found early on Saturday mornings, May through October. Go to https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/ADaRC/ADaRC/Farmers-Market-at-the-Hartford-Regional-Market for more information about the Hartford Regional Market.

Apple picking is a quintessential New England activity the whole family can enjoy.

Midseason varieties like Gala, Honeycrisp, and McIntosh are ready for picking at many Connecticut orchards. Go to the Connecticut Apples website at https://www.ctapples.org/pick-your-own for a listing of Connecticut orchards that offer the opportunity for customers to pick their own apples.

Doug Bussa of Bussa Orchards in Glastonbury said the flavor of this year’s apple crop has been excellent and in general the apples are a larger size.

“The late varieties are lighter than the early varieties. Probably due to early season rain effecting the pollination of the late varieties, but the lighter load on the late varieties mean larger size,” said Doug. “Some customers like larger apples for baking and processing—one apple is a pound and a half.”

For more information about Connecticut apples including apple recipes and tips for the handling and storage of fresh apples visit the Connecticut Apples website at https://www.ctapples.org.

In addition to pies, muffins, and applesauce Connecticut Grown apples also make excellent cider.

Deercrest Farm makes unprocessed, raw cider from their own Connecticut Grown apples starting the first week of September until New Year’s Eve.

“People love the cider,” said Jon. “Especially the purists that appreciate raw cider.”

Deercrest Farm uses all varieties of apples to get the sweet-sour taste just (continued on Page 3)
### CONNECTICUT WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL REPORT

#### BARROWS AND GILTS
- SLAUGHTER HOGS
- OPEN HEIFERS
- BRED COWS

#### SLAUGHTER LAMBS
- LARGE
- MEDIUM
- SMALL

#### NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS
- Carton delivered store door. (Range)

#### LANCASTER, PA LIVESTOCK
- Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted
- SLAUGHTER STEERS
- Choice 2-3
- Select 2-3
- SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing
- breakers 75-80% lean
- boners 80-85% lean
- lean 88-90% lean
- SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Wooled & Shorn
- Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3
- 81-89 lbs
- 92-95 lbs
- 100-148 lbs
- Choice 2-3
- 60-66 lbs
- 70-76 lbs
- 80-89 lbs
- Choice 2-3
- 99-99 lbs
- 100-143 lbs
- SLAUGHTER GOATS: Per head/Est. weight
- SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1
- 50-59 lbs
- 60-69 lbs
- 70-79 lbs
- SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1
- 100-149 lbs
- 150-175 lbs
- SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1
- 100-149 lbs
- 150-190 lbs

#### DAIRY CATTLE
- New Holland, PA. Price per animal.
- FRESH/MILKING COWS
- APPROVED
- MEDIUM
- BRED COWS
- APPROVED
- SPRINGER COWS:
- APPROVED
- BRED HEIFERS
- APPROVED
- SPRINGER HEIFERS:
- APPROVED
- OPEN HEIFERS
- APPROVED

#### NEW HOLLAND, PA HOG AUCTION
- Per cwt.
- SLAUGHTER HOGS
- BARROWS AND GILTS
- US 1
- US 1-2
- US 2-3
- US 4
- SOWS

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

#### MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION
- Middlefield, CT - September 16, 2019
- Price per ton, small squares. September 10, 2019
- ALFALFA/GRASS
- SUPREME
- PREMIUM
- GRASS HAYS
- PREMIUM
- BOSTON MARKET ORGANIC
- Price Range. Per unit.
- APPLE, FUJI, NY, NFCY, 64'S
- APPLE, GNOER GLD NY, NFCY, 64'S
- APPLE, GNOER GLD KY, NFCY, 80'S
- APPPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 125
- BEETS, RED, NJ, 12S, BNCH
- BEETS, GOLD, NJ, 12S, BNCH
- CABBAGE, GRN, NJ, 50 LB
- NECTARINES, TRAY-PAC,56S
- PEACHES, TRAY-PAC, 48S
- PEARS, BARTLETT, 4/5 BU
- PEPPERS, RED, BELL, 11LB, XL
- PEPPERS, YEL BELL, 11LB, XL
- PEPPERS, ORA BELL, 11LB, XL
- PEPPERS, GRN BELL,1,99LB, XL
- SPINACH, BABY, 4 LB
- SQUASH, ZUCCHINI,1/2 BU
- SWEET POTATOES
- TOMATOES, VINE RIPE,11 LB

#### NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT
- Price per ton. small squares. September 10, 2019
- FAIR
right. They sweeten with Gala or add Granny Smith for tartness. “Every batch tastes different,” said Jon, “All varieties are mixed together to get the flavor profile right.”

Jon said the cider, which is only sold from the Deercrest Farm retail farm stand, located at 3499 Hebron Ave. in Glastonbury, will keep in for three weeks unopened in the fridge.

Visit https://www.ctapples.org/growers for a listing for Connecticut orchards that also sell cider. The Connecticut Apples website is sponsored by the Connecticut Apple Marketing Board—an advisory board, which consists of eight Connecticut apple producers representing both large and small acreage, whose mission is to promote the sale of Connecticut apples in Connecticut markets.

The Connecticut Apples website also includes information about apple varieties, apple recipes, and the HardCORE CT Apple and Pear Challenge.

Participation in the 3rd annual HardCORE CT Apple & Pear Challenge is one way to celebrate CT Grown for CT Kids Week this October 7-11, 2019. For more information about the Challenge and a toolbox of resources including teacher materials and apple activities for kids go to https://putlocalonyourtray.uconn.edu/hardcorechallenge.

U.S. DOL REMOVES NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT REQUIREMENT FOR H-2A VISA PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) issued a final rule that removes a requirement that farmers seeking foreign guest workers must first advertise open positions in newspapers. The employers would instead be required to post jobs online for 14 consecutive days before requesting workers through the H-2A visa program, according to the regulation.

The updated will ensure that the required mode of advertising jobs is the best and most efficient way of reaching U.S. workers. The final rule, which goes into effect will go into effect Monday, October 21, 2019, says the DOL will advertise all H-2A job opportunities by posting them on the existing DOL electronic job registry at https://seasonaljobs.dol.gov.

Farmers have increasingly utilized the H-2A program in the recent years, and the regulation is intended to make it easier to hire the foreign workers.

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut’s first independent NATIONALWIDE 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

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. Pollution 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


64-R. Apples for Sale- Macs, Macoun, Cortland. GAP Certified, high quality, priced to sell. Greater Hartford delivery or pick-up at farm. 860-712-2919

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

70-R. Truck, mowers, and snow plow to be sold as a unit. 1958 M.F. model 65 with splitter valve conversion and dual hydr remotes. Tires 15.5x28. Loaded with rim guard complete with tire chains. Tractor has 4 cyl Cont. gas engine approx. 50 hp. 8 1/2 ft western plow, hydr angel unit. Mower JD mod 5 sickle bar unit concerted to 3 P.H. All units in very good condition. $5500 firm. Call 860-423-6748

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


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
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.

PA 490 EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

The Connecticut Farm Bureau Association (CFBA) is hosting a comprehensive seminar regarding Public Act (PA) 490 for landowners, assessors and municipal leaders on Tuesday Oct. 1, 2019 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the W. J. Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield Street, Wethersfield, CT.

The seminar will provide an overview of PA 490 – Connecticut’s current use assessment law for farmland, forestland, and open space land. The program will include tips for applying for, maintaining, and transferring 490 land to avoid tax penalties. Time for questions and answers. Presented by CFBA Executive Director Joan Nichols. The seminar is free for full and part-time CFBA members, $20 for non-members. To register visit www.cfba.org. To join or renew CFBA membership visit www.cfba.org or call 860-768-1100.

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.

NO-TILL / COVER CROP FARM FIELD DAY

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut (CT NOFA) is hosting a No-Till/Cover Crop Farm Field Day on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Sub Edge Farm, 199 Town Farm Road, Farmington, CT.

The event includes presentations, field demonstrations, a farm tour, and an equipment demonstration of no-till seed drill and roller-crimper. The event includes lunch, networking, and USDA NRCS rainwater simulator demonstration. All farmers are welcome. To register go to https://ctnofa.org/event/organic-no-till-field-day-at-sub-edge-farm. For additional information call Amanda at 860-345-3977 ext. 100.

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.

Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2019.

www.CTGrown.gov