



Agricultural Report

Connecticut Department of Agriculture

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor; Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
Robert R. Pellegrino, Bureau Director



Marketing & Technology Bureau, (860) 713-2503

Linda Piotrowicz, Interim Editor
Wednesday, February 1, 2012

NOTES from the DEPARTMENT . . .

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT: NEW ENGLAND

Fruit & Vegetable Programs, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service

(January 17, 2012) In New England overall, the month of December exhibited cold, seasonal temperatures replacing the earlier abnormally warm weather. This weather pattern offered little rain or snowfall with only measureable snowfall in high-level terrain. Moisture levels were about average and seasonally adequate. Early December weather was erratic with on-and-off cold and mild weather.

The entire region experienced a hurricane in late August and a dry fall, which in turn left many regional pocket areas with colonies short on stores, and this occurrence has joined with the present cold, store-depleting weather. Low stores coupled with the usual cold, harsh weather of winter in the future will surely mean a high mortality rate for over-wintered populations. Keepers report that as much as 70% of colonies are light in stores with just enough to fill the brood chambers.

In early December, the bees had a chance to reorganize themselves, haul out the dead, and go on cleansing flights. New England has been good and favorable going into the winter for beekeepers. There are no significant pollen and nectar sources as rapidly colder conditions have finished all floral food sources for the year. The few sources left were fall aster, heath, mum blossoms, perennial bachelor buttons, and Johnny jump ups, which amazingly exhibited some bright orange pollen. Beekeepers had been administering supplemental feedings much heavier than normal due to the early-December mild temperatures.

Over-wintering procedures entail installing mouse guards, entrance reducers, and insulation boards between inner and outer covers and/or boards under the bottom screens to ensure proper ventilation. The Styrofoam covered hives have shown to provide better insulation but have not been able to stand up well in commercial operations. Reportedly, Styrofoam has shown to be better suited for use in mating nucs in queen rearing and in the early stages of nucleus buildup.

In New England, beekeepers have closed up their hives for the winter. Bees are snuggled in their hives but reportedly the clusters are smaller than desired. As needed, colonies are being fed on an occasional warm day with sugar water syrup 2:1, otherwise with sugar candy and fondant with homobile boards strategically placed in order to add to the stored food that was left after surplus honey was drawn off. In New England, the average consumption is 60 lbs of honey throughout the winter. If the weather pattern stays cold, it won't hurt the bees as long as the hives have good ventilation.

In New England, hives normally lose 5 to 10% of their population due to winter-related issues. Cold weather will not adversely affect bees as much as condensation will. Colonies should be ventilated to abate this problem. Many keepers report that bees have exhibited the usually late-winter pattern of clustering just under the inner cover. However, clusters are tight enough to keep the bees safe. Some keepers have registered early colony losses, presumably due to low cluster size, low stores, and erratic weather temperature swings.

The most important thing in a healthy hive is nutrition. Hives weaken under the stress of protein deficiency. Limited pollen and nectar mean less brood and poor nutrition. Reportedly, this year's honey stores on brood frames are very small, although in many cases, large quantities of pollen are found. This could mean an increase in viral infections in queens, coupled with a stronger disease-laden varroa mite population that could carry over to next season with another season of queen problems, especially with underperforming queens. This will likely contribute to creating a greater winter loss as many colonies are light and their winter bees were not developed under the best of conditions. Colonies overall are reported to be in fairly good condition with mite problems under control and bee dead-out losses within expected levels.

Harvesting and extracting honey has been completed. Some locations have exhibited very low production. Some yields are half what they usually are. Keepers are giving estimates at 30 to 35 lbs. per colony on average.

(continued on Page 4)



**WHOLESALE FLOWERS
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	Low	High
ANEMONE, bnch,lng	10.00	12.50
CALLA,bnchd 5,xlng	27.50	27.50
GARDENIA, blm	5.50	5.50
GARDENIA bnch,3	15.00	15.00
GERBERA, stm,lng	.80	1.00
LILY,Asiatic,bnch,lng	12.00	12.50
LILY,Asiatic,3-5 blm,lng	15.00	18.00
LILY,Casa blnc,bnch,12,lng	25.00	27.50
LILY,Siberia, bnch,lng	20.00	20.00
Lily,Sorbnn,bnch,lng	20.00	20.00
SNPDRGN,bnch,10,lng	11.50	12.50
SNFLWR,bnch,5,lng	7.50	7.50

NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION

January 30, 2012

Hogs sold by actual weights, prices quoted by hundred weight.

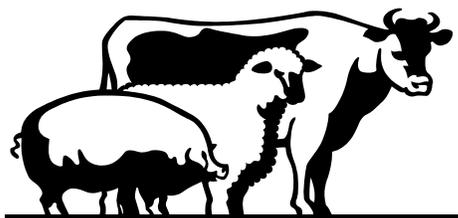
49-54	220-270 lbs	66.50-72.00
	270-300 lbs	64.00-69.50
	300-400 lbs	69.00-74.00
Sows: US 1-3	300-500 lbs	53.00-58.50
	500-700 lbs	57.00-61.50
Boars:	300-700 lbs	31.00-34.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, January 30, 2012

Live animals brought the following ave. prices per cwt.

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	20.00	28.00
61-75 lbs.	50.00	55.00
76-90 lbs.	60.00	65.50
91-105 lbs.	70.00	75.00
106 lbs. & up	80.00	82.50
Farm Calves	85.00	115.00
Veal Calves	75.00	150.00
Open Heifers	65.00	100.00
Beef Steers	84.00	90.00
Feeder Steers	70.00	98.00
Starter Calves	37.00	42.00
Stock Bulls	70.00	139.00
Beef Bulls	70.00	95.00
Sows	38.00	40.00
Goats each	50.00	60.00
Canners	up to	74.50
Cutters	75.00	78.00
Utility Grade Cows	79.00	82.00
Rabbits each	5.00	21.00
Chickens each	4.00	20.00
Ducks each	5.00	13.00
Feeder Pigs	20.00	35.00
Lambs	110.00	145.00
Sheep	110.00	130.00



**WHOLESALE VEGETABLES
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**



	Low	High
ALFALFA SPROUTS,5lb	11.00	12.00
APPLE,Braeburn,bu	12.00	14.00
APPLE,Cameo,bu	12.00	14.00
APPLE,Empire,96,xfcy	24.00	25.00
APPLE,Empire,12/3,xfcy	20.00	20.00
APPLE,Fuji,bu	16.00	18.00
APPLE,Jonagold,bu	16.00	16.00
CIDER 4/1gal	14.50	14.00
PARSNIP,25lb	24.00	24.00
POTATOES,Rnd,wh,,50lb	10.00	11.00
POTATOES,10lb	2.50	2.50
SQUASH,Bttrnt,1/9bu,lg	14.00	15.00
TOMATOES,Cherry,5lb flat	14.00	14.00
TOMATOES,Grnhs,on vine,11lb	22.00	22.00

SHIPPED IN

	Low	High
BEAN,Grn,rd,bu,FL	26.00	31.00
BLACKBERRY,12/6,MX	18.00	22.00
BLUEBERRY,12/1pt,CE	22.00	24.00
CANTALOUPE,12ct,HD	18.00	22.00
CLEMENTINES,5lb, SP	4.00	5.00
EGGPLANT,1-1/9,FL	16.00	18.00
GARLIC,Elphnt,10lb,CA	28.00	30.00
LETTUCE,grn leaf,24,CA	18.00	22.00
NECTARINES,36,CL	25.00	25.00
ONION,Yel,25lb,NY	7.00	8.00
ORANGE,113ct,CA	15.00	18.00
PEPPER,Cbnll,1 1/9	20.00	22.00
PEPPER,Sntn,1-1/9,FL	10.00	12.00
RHUBARB ,6kg, Grnhs,NE	40.00	40.00

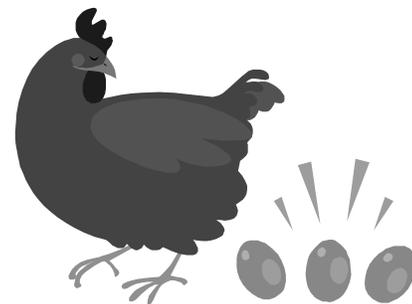
(Boston Terminal and wholesale grower prices)

NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION

January 30, 2012

Bulk/ High/ Low Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:		
Breakers 75-80%lean		
74.00-79.00	80.00-85.00	71.00-73.00
Boners 80-85% lean		
72.00-77.00	80.00-85.00	64.00-71.00
Lean 85-90% lean		
65.00-71.00	72.00-77.50	61.00-64.50
SLAUGHTER BULLS: Yield Grade 1		
915-1840 lbs	85.50-90.50	
CALVES: All prices per cwt.		
Graded Bull Calves: Number 1		
80-125 lbs	115.00-132.00	
Number 2	80-125 lbs	100.00-115.00
Number 3	75-115 lbs	75.00-100.00
Holstein Heifers: Number 1		
90-105 lbs	150.00-220.00	
Number 2		
65-110 lbs	80.00-125.00	
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Non-Traditional Markets:		
Wooled & Shorn Choice and Prime 2-3		
50-60 lbs	225.00-240.00	
60-80 lbs	215.00-241.00	
80-90 lbs	191.00-296.00	
90-110 lbs	172.00-187.00	



**WEEKLY NEW ENGLAND
SHELL EGGS**

Prices paid per dozen. Grade A brown egg in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	143-153
LARGE	139-150
MEDIUM	110-120

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA

January 30, 2012

Prices to retailers, sales to volume buyers, USDA Grade A and Grade A, white eggs in cartons, warehouse, centers per dozen. (Range)

EXTRA LARGE	93-107
LARGE	89-103
MEDIUM	76-89

PENNSYLVANIA GRAIN REPORT

January 23, 2012

Grain market for eastern Pennsylvania.

Corn, No.2, bu.	6.73-7.02
Ear Corn, ton	193--200
Soybeans, No.2, bu.	11.12-11.67



110-130 lbs	183.00-198.00
130-150 lbs	158.00-170.00
150-200 lbs	144.00-158.00
Wooled & Shorn Choice 2-3	
40-60 lbs	210.00-240.00
60-80 lbs	187.00-235.00
80-90 lbs	172.00-189.00
90-110 lbs	144.00-159.00
110-130lbs	142.00-157.00
130-150 lbs	140.00-154.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3: Med. Flesh	
120-160 lbs	94.00 -109.00
160-200 lbs	88.00-102.00
Utility 1-2: Thin Flesh	
120-160 lbs	88.00-100.00
160-200 lbs	80.00-95.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS: All goats are Selection 1, sold by the head, on est. weights.	
Kids: 30-40lbs	90.00-104.00
40-60 lbs	118.00-136.00
60-80lbs	128.00-142.00
80-100lbs	148.00-165.00
100-110lbs	153.00-168.00
Nannies/Does: 80-130 lbs	128.00-143.00
130-180 lbs	145.00-160.00
Bucks/Billies: 100-150lbs	184.00-200.00
150-250 lbs	210.00-225.00

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now CT's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheepbreeders, 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. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

6-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

9-R. Rough sawn lumber, fence boards, trailer planks, tomato stakes, custom and portable sawing 203-788-2430.

10-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 today at 203-444-6553.

13-R. Free-seasoned pine, perfect for boiling sap. Call Fred 203-395-3070 or stonegds@comcast.net

16. An E-Z seeder for seeding flats of 98's, cabbage and pepper plates included. Asking \$400.00. Also 1,000 flats of 98's \$200.00. And, 100 plastic picking containers, 1 bu-1-1/2 bu size 50 cents each. And, miscellaneous round and square 3 inch Geranium pots. Also a 1984 Ford 3910 tractor and a 100 gallon Hardi sprayer. Call Butch 860-569-1607.

17-R. Hebron: 79.2 acres, Rte 316. Frontage on three roads, possible subdivision, winery, agriculture, recreation. Driveway and pond. 860-872-6637.

19. Potato digger, Checchi/Maggi, save your back \$500.00. I&L Cultivator 8S sweeps adjustable tool bars like new \$400.00. 6-foot York Rake \$50.00. Plucker-powerful enough for large turkeys, needs 2-1/2 inch pulley and some fingers \$250.00. Call 203-494-8408.

WANTED

12-R. Prides Corner Farms is a diversified 500 acre wholesale production nursery located in Lebanon, CT that produces plants for customers in the Northeast & Mid-Atlantic region. Our product lineup includes perennials, grasses, herbs, native plants, trees, shrubs, & edible ornamentals. We are actively seeking individuals for Foreperson Trainees and Grower Interns. Qualified applicants will be enthusiastic, positive minded people that like working outdoors and have an interest in plants. We provide on the job training for these full time career opportunities with benefits. A great team environment! Give us a call or email. Human Resources HR@pridescorner.com 1-860-642-3081 www.pridescorner.com

18-R. 1 or 2 row corn picker, 1 or 2 row corn chopper, forage wagon, 65+hp tractor, all in good working condition. 860-494-4241.

MISCELLANEOUS

7-R. Farm/Land Specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

11-R. Lily's LLC Appraisal Services specializes in Estates, Commercial & Industrial, Residential, Agricultural, Conservation Easements and Reevaluation Appraisals. Call Lori Longhi at 860-463-9997.

COVER CROP WORKSHOP FEB 16

Covers for All Reasons: How to Choose the Cover Crops Your Farm Needs will be held February 16, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in the Visitors Center Theater, Old Sturbridge Village, 1 Stallion Hill Road, Sturbridge, MA. \$20/person includes lunch. Pesticide credits available. RSVP by February 9 to Heather Faubert, hfh@uri.edu, 401-874-2967.

This event is part of a three-year USDA/Northeast SARE Research & Education Project led by URI professor Rebecca Brown.

SELL YOUR CT GROWN AT HIGHWAY REST AREAS

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has unique opportunity to offer interested farmers the opportunity to sell at select rest areas on some of the state's major highways. In the summer of 2012, the following rest areas are available:

- Interstate 95: Milford (North- & Southbound), Madison (North- & Southbound)
- Route 15: Greenwich (Northbound), Orange (North- & Southbound), North Haven (North- & Southbound)

This is still in the planning process. Exact days, times, and dates have not been determined but DoAG is currently recruiting interested farmers. If you are interested, please contact Rick Macsuga (860) 713-2544, Richard.Macsuga@ct.gov or Mark Zotti (860) 713-2538, Mark.Zotti@ct.gov.

UConn EXT GAP FOOD SAFETY PLAN WORKSHOPS

Have you attended a Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training program (UConn, UMass, Cornell, FreshPoint, etc.)? Do you need help writing your plan? The UConn GAP School is providing a series of workshops to help you write your GAP food-safety plan. Each session will include GAP program updates; review of sample plans; presentation of plan templates; and time spent writing a plan. *Prerequisite: evidence that you have participated in a basic GAP education program.*

Workshops will be from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at New Haven County Extension Center, North Haven, on February 9; Tolland County Extension Center, Vernon, on February 27; and New Haven County Extension Center, North Haven, on March 20.

There is no fee, but you must pre-register by phone or email. Contact Diane Hirsch at 203-407-3163 or diane.hirsch@uconn.edu to preregister or for more information.

UConn EXTENSION GAP "LITE" WORKSHOPS

The UConn Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) School will provide three learning opportunities for small farmers, CSAs, school gardeners or other farmers who are not required to participate in a third party GAP audit. Learn how to reduce microbial contamination of produce, be proactive and reduce the risk of foodborne illness and protect those who eat what you grow, and begin the process of putting together a "lite" edition of a GAP food-safety plan.

These workshops will be held March 13 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the New Haven County Extension Center, North Haven; March 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Litchfield County Extension Center, Torrington; and March 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Tolland County Extension Center in Vernon.

There is no charge but preregistration is required. Contact Diane Hirsch at 203-407-3163 or diane.hirsch@uconn.edu to preregister or for information.

GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM APPS DUE FEB 3

Applications for USDA's Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) are being accepted through February 3, 2012. GRP helps landowners restore and protect grassland, pastureland, and certain other lands, and provides assistance for rehabilitating grasslands.

The program will conserve vulnerable grasslands from conversion to cropland or other uses and conserve important grasslands by helping maintain viable farming operations. The voluntary program is offered through the 2008 Farm Bill and is jointly administered by USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA).

For more information, visit www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/programs or contact your nearest USDA Field Office.

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT: NEW ENGLAND*(continued from Page 1)*

Information from the National Honey Board and other articles have highlighted the curative attributes of natural honey in treating minor burns, cuts, and abrasions. These articles have formulated that natural honey, applied to a minor wound that has been thoroughly cleaned, cuts off the air supply and exposure to outside contaminants. Honey keeps the air out and the skin heals quicker and better with less scarring. There is also a natural chemical interaction involving an enzyme found in honey and fluids from the damaged tissues that creates a form of disinfectant like hydrogen peroxide. Honey has been used for many years to treat coughs and bronchitis, and researchers point out that it is an effective remedy for children's coughs and reduces the severity and frequency of nighttime coughing. It improves sleep quality for children and their parents. (SOURCE: Mayo Clinic Health Center article December 2007)

Presently research has clearly shown the value of honey as an antioxidant. Honey contains a variety of flavonoids and phenolic acids which act as antioxidants. Additionally, darker colored honey seems to have higher antioxidant content than lighter honeys.

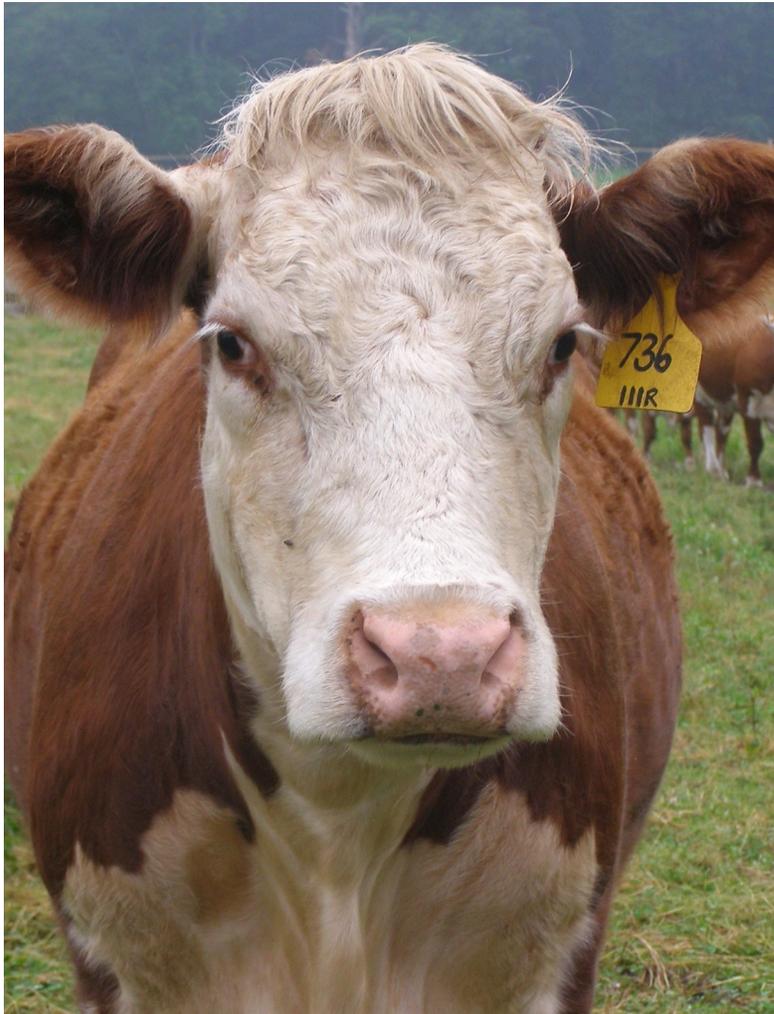
In regard to honey's nutritional profile, it is composed primarily of carbohydrates and water. It also contains in small amounts a wide array of vitamins and minerals including niacin, riboflavin, pantothenic acid, calcium, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, phosphorous, potassium, and zinc.

Honey sales were excellent going into the holiday season. Keepers crafted many products from the fruits of their hives to sell for the holiday season, primarily as stocking stuffers such as decorative honey decanters, candles, creams, lip balms, and many edible holiday treats. The holiday season brings on an increase demand for local honey especially at local farmers markets and all retail/wholesale outlets that are selling evergreen holiday decorations such as Christmas trees. Honey sales are predicted to remain very good and continue to grow with supplies of new crop honey being available.

Prices quoted for retail 1-lb. bottled units were \$7.00 to \$10.00, mostly \$9.00 and occasionally higher, inclusive of all varieties; for food-service operations, prices were strong with 5-gallon units selling at \$175.00 to \$215.00, mostly \$200.00, occasionally higher, for all raw and natural honey, depending on variety and quality. Current wholesale prices quoted exclusively for white, cleaned beeswax are steady and for 1-lb. block units at \$5.50 to \$5.75, mostly \$5.50, and for 50-lb. block units at \$4.50 to \$5.00, mostly \$4.75. Price quotes taken for bulk orders above 50 lbs. are \$2.20 to \$3.50, mostly \$3.50, for white/light, cleaned beeswax. Retail white and cleaned beeswax prices reported are \$16.00 to \$20.00 per pound.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER APPS DUE FEB 17

Applications for the Connecticut 2012 Outstanding Young Farmer are available at www.ctaef.org, and must be postmarked by February 17, 2012. The winner will be honored at Ag Day at the Capitol, March 21, 2012.



Advertising Rates: Fifteen words or less \$3.75 per insertion. For ads of more than 15 words, 25 cents per word per insertion. Initial letters, hyphenated words, phone numbers, and addresses, etc., are counted separately. Print or type copy. Publication on a specific date cannot be guaranteed. Advertisements will be published on a first-come, first-served basis. Ads must be received by noon the Friday before a publication date to be considered for insertion. Only ads of an agricultural nature with a Connecticut phone number will be accepted. Remittance with copy required. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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