

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
April 12, 2017



STATE'S GREENHOUSE INDUSTRY REVS UP FOR SPRING, WORKS TO KEEP CUSTOMERS LOCAL

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner
Steven K. Reviczky

SOUTHINGTON – As the thermometer touched 70-degrees Monday afternoon, one sure sign of spring warmth finally arriving was the creaking, metallic sound of greenhouse windows at Karabin Farms automatically cranking open to allow cooler air inside.

“It got a little warm in here so it opened up,” owner Diane Karabin said as the “guillotine” windows and glass panels along the roof were slowly opened by a ratchet system triggered by a thermostat. “It’s probably looking for about 68-70 degrees. If it gets too hot it stresses the plants.”

Within seconds, an audible rush of air made the greenhouse noticeably cooler.

The sounds were welcome ones for Karabin, who like many growers had been eager for warm and sunny conditions to replace the early season’s prevalent cool and rainy days.

“Everyone’s been craving spring and now it finally feels like it,” she said. “This is my favorite time of year.”

As President of Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association, Karabin said it is also a crucial time of year for its roughly 100 members, many of whom rely heavily on spring sales of vegetable and bedding plants, and ornamental flowers and plants.

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IT'S OFFICIALLY
SPRING

*Plant Your Garden with
Connecticut Grown*

WWW.CTGROWN.GOV/PLANTS



The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is promoting the state's greenhouse industry during the month of April on several state radio stations, as well as Pandora radio and the agency Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/ConnecticutGrown

The ads feature the message: “Pansies and petunias, hyacinths and hydrangeas – how do YOU color your garden? Visit your Connecticut greenhouses and nurseries for local, fragrant, colorful bedding plants. Don’t forget to pick up your tomato, pepper and squash plants too! Visit CTGrown.gov/plants to find a location near you.”

The monthly promotions are funded by a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant.

LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	58.00	63.50
boners 80-85% lean	58.00	63.00
lean 88-90% lean	53.00	58.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	124.00	127.00
Choice 2-3	120.50	124.50
Select 1-2	115.50	119.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	104.00	104.00
Choice 2-3	90.00	95.00
Sel 1-2	82.00	87.50
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 112-130 lbs	132.00	145.00
No 1 96-105 lbs	162.00	162.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice 1-2		
40-50 lbs	250.00	270.00
50-60 lbs	252.00	267.00
60-70 lbs	245.00	255.00
70-80 lbs	250.00	262.00
80-90 lbs	240.00	250.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
120-160 lbs	110.00	130.00
160-200 lbs	100.00	125.00
200-300 lbs	70.00	92.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
20-40 lbs	115.00	135.00
40-60 lbs	140.00	165.00
60-80 lbs	160.00	197.00
80-100 lbs	200.00	220.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	180.00	200.00
130-180 lbs	215.00	245.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
100-150 lbs	220.00	265.00
150-250 lbs	285.00	315.00
SLAUGHTER WETHERS Sel 1		
100-150 lbs	270.00	305.00
150-250 lbs	345.00	390.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Avg dressing. Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	49.00	56.00
	300-350 lbs	50.00	58.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	41.00	51.00
Sows, US 1-3	300-500 lbs	30.00	37.00
	500-800 lbs	30.50	40.00
Boars	400-800 lbs	2.00	5.00

GREYSTONE SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION

April 4, 2017. \$ per lb or as marked.

Muscovy Ducks, Drakes	1.50	2.50
Leghorn Roosters, each	6.50	6.50
Peking Ducks, each	7.00	7.00
Red Fowl, 4-5 lbs	.50	.55
Red Fowl, 5-6 lbs	.60	.80
Rooster, Crossbred, 7-11 lbs	1.20	1.30
Banty hens, each	3.50	4.00
Banty roosters, each	5.00	6.00
Guinea fowl	3.10	4.00
Geese, 9-14, each	10.00	15.00
Pigeons, each	3.00	3.10
Bunnies, each	6.00	17.00
Chicks, each	.40	1.40
Doves, each	6.00	17.00
Turkeys, each	8.00	25.00
Broilers	.40	.70

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLESBoston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices
NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LB CTN	14.00	14.00
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 12-4 OZ	16.00	16.50
APPLE, CORTLND, XF, 12-3LB	21.00	21.00
APPLE, MAC, #1, 120	18.00	19.00
APPLE, MAC, #1, 140	18.00	19.00
APPLE, MAC, FCY, 2-1/2", 12-3LB	18.00	18.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
CIDER, APPLE, 4-1 GALLON	19.00	21.00
CIDER, APPLE, 9-1/2 GALLON	21.00	22.50
PARSNIPS, 20 LBS	23.00	23.00
PARSNIPS, 18- 1 LB SACKS	22.00	22.00
POTATO, RNDRED, #1, SZA, 50LB	14.00	15.00
POTATO, RNDRED, #1, SZB, 50LB	16.00	18.00
POTATO, RNDRED, NG, SZA, 50LB	13.00	13.00
POTATO, RNDWT, #1, CHF, 50LB	13.00	13.00
POTATO, RNDWT, #1, 10 LB FILM	2.25	2.50
POTATO, RUSST, #1, 10OZ, 50LB	12.00	13.00
POTATO, YLLW, #1, SZB, 50 LB	11.00	11.00
POTATO, YLLW, #1, SZA, 50LB	13.00	22.00
POTATO, YLLW, #1, CHEF, 50LB	14.00	14.00
TOMATOES, GHSE, 25 LBS	15.00	15.00
TOMATO, GHS, ONVINE, 11 LBS	20.00	20.00
TOMATOES, GHS, CHERRY, 5LB	10.00	14.00
TOMS, GHS, CHRRY, 8-10 OZ	20.00	24.00

NORTHEAST RETAIL DAIRY REPORT

\$ per lb or as noted.

BUTTER, 1 LB	2.49	3.49
CHEESE, NAT., 8 OZ	1.99	3.50
CHEESE, NAT., 1 LB	3.99	3.99
CHEESE, SHRED, 8 OZ	1.99	3.00
CHEESE, SHRED, 1 LB	3.99	3.99
COTTAGE CHEESE, 1 LB	1.66	2.29
CREAM CHEESE, 8 OZ	.85	2.50
FLAVORED MILK, 1/2 GALLON	2.49	2.49
ICE CREAM, 48-64 OZ	1.99	4.99
MILK, GALLON	3.69	3.69
MILK, ORG., 1/2 GALLON	3.99	3.99
MILK, ORG., GALLON	4.99	4.99
SOUR CREAM, 16 OZ	1.50	2.00
YOGURT, GREEK, 4-6 OZ	.69	1.00
YOGURT, GREEK, 32 OZ	3.49	4.50
YOGURT, GREEK, ORG., 4-6 OZ	.88	1.25
YOGURT, 4-6 OZ	.33	.60
YOGURT, 32 OZ	2.49	4.99
YOGURT, ORG., 32 OZ	3.50	3.50

NORTHEAST RETAIL APPLE REPORT

\$ per lb or as noted.

APPLES, BRAEBURN, ORG.	.69	2.29
APPLES, FUJI	1.49	1.49
APPLES, FUJI, ORG.	1.29	3.99
APPLES, GALA, ORG.	1.45	3.99
APPLES, GALA, ORG., 3 LBS	3.99	5.99
APPLES, GALA, ORG., 5 LBS	4.99	4.99
APPLES, GRANNY SMITH, ORG.	1.45	2.99
APPLES, GOLD DEL, ORG.	1.45	1.99
APPLES, HONEYCRISP	2.49	2.49
APPLES, MAC, ORG., 3 LBS	3.98	3.98
APPLES, PINK LADY	1.49	1.49
APPLES, PINK LADY, ORG.	1.98	2.99
APPLES, PINK LADY, ORG. 3 LB	2.99	5.99
APPLES, RED DEL, ORG.	.69	1.99
APPLES, RED DEL, ORG., 3 LBS	2.89	3.99

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - April 10, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	35.00	40.00
61-75 lbs.	55.00	60.00
76-90 lbs.	66.00	70.00
91-105 lbs.	71.00	73.00
106 lbs. & up	75.00	78.00
Farm Calves	81.00	105.00
Starter Calves	47.00	52.00
Veal Calves	71.00	170.00
Feeder Heifers	70.00	95.00
Beef Heifers	70.00	113.00
Feeder Steers	90.00	130.00
Beef Steers	70.00	91.00
Feeder Bulls	70.00	170.00
Beef Bulls	80.00	88.00
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 Pigs each	60.00	75.00
Sheep each	92.00	310.00
Lambs each	95.00	245.00
Goats each	145.00	250.00
Kid Goats each	37.50	150.00
Canners	up to	65.00
Cutters	66.00	69.00
Utility Grade Cows	70.00	74.00
Rabbits each	7.00	26.00
Chickens each	3.00	37.50
Ducks each	5.00	16.00

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDAPer doz. Grade A and Grade A white
in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	.86	1.05
LARGE	.80	.94
MEDIUM	.58	.71

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGSPer doz. Grade A brown in
carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.20	1.32
LARGE	1.17	1.29
MEDIUM	.83	.95
SMALL	.63	.64

NEW HOLLAND, PA FEEDER PIGS

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

US1-2		
20-30 lbs	170.00	210.00
30-40 lbs	110.00	160.00
50-60 lbs	140.00	160.00
60-80 lbs	120.00	160.00
US 2		
20-30 lbs	100.00	170.00
30-40 lbs	150.00	160.00
40-50 lbs	90.00	90.00
50-60 lbs	110.00	110.00
60-80 lbs	100.00	115.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT

Price per small square. April 10, 2017.

Alfalfa- Premium	350.00	350.00
Good	185.00	265.00
Grass Hays- Premium	270.00	300.00
Good	180.00	250.00
Alfalfa/Grass- Premium	335.00	345.00
Good	185.00	255.00
Straw	85.00	125.00

(Continued from Page 1)

The state's greenhouse sector is thriving, she said, despite some "ups and downs" in recent years as the economy slowly recovers.

One of the growers' association's main goals, and biggest challenges, is to continually educate the public about the benefits of buying from local growers, as opposed to "big box" stores.

The association is now producing a promotional ad that will run on state television stations later this year that features an assortment of growers and highlights the different products available in each of the four seasons.

"We know there's a segment of society that will always choose to go to the big-box store," Karabin said. "But I believe there is a larger segment that is interested in the quality of the plant they are buying and want to keep their money local."

A grant from the state Dept. of Agriculture is helping create the ad, which is designed to encourage customers to buy local.

"The greenhouse industry is a large and critical part of our state's agricultural economy," Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said. "Its strength is based on the hard work and dedication of growers who offer their customers quality Connecticut Grown products, and we are proud to support them."

Karabin said personal, knowledgeable service is especially critical in the greenhouse industry to ensure customers are aware of the particular environment and care a plant requires.

"We take the time to explain what plants work and what don't in their location," she said. "If our customers aren't successful, we're not going to be successful."

Even the weather can influence a customer into a

misguided purchase.

"You get some warm days like we've had this week and people get overzealous and want to put tomatoes in the ground," she said. "No can do."

Karabin started growing bedding and vegetable plants, and about 2,000 ornamental hanging baskets she designs herself, in her four greenhouses in mid-February.

This week, most of the plants were starting to show some color, and will be in full bloom in a month or so as the busy weeks around Mother's Day approach.

While the crop fields on their Andrews Street farm and another 100 acres they lease nearby have been particularly wet so far this spring, Karabin expects to be able to plant crops outside within a few weeks, as is typical.

"It's been wet but at least the soil has not been overly cold," she said. "Three years ago we were taking the soil's temperature all the time waiting for it to get warm enough to plant."

Karabin and her husband Michael bought the farm in 1984, and gradually planted about 2,000 fruit trees and 10,000 Christmas trees.

Most of their business is direct retail to customers who visit their greenhouses and rustic farm store, where they also offer a variety of meats raised at the farm, including Red Angus beef.

Karabin said a significant factor in the farm's success over the decades is the long-term relationships the family has made with so many repeat customers.

"People go to the smaller grower for a friendly face and a certain amount of handholding," she said with a smile. "It's no different than 'know your farmer, know your food.' It's important to trust your grower."

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

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or 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 today at 203-444-6553.

27-R. Quality hay for sale; large bales from fertilized fields no kicker bales. 25 bale minimum \$5.75 per bale. Call 203-453-9865.

42-R. Greenhouse furnaces 300,000 – 400,000 BTU's. Price range from \$1,500.00 to \$3,000.00. Call Alex 203-223-4853.

45-R. 1965 Massey Ferguson 135 tractor. 38 HP/with scraper blade. Nice condition. \$2,700.00. Dan Donahue 860-267-8323.

47-R. Hay square bales- 1st cut \$6.00. 2nd cut \$7.00. P.U. Dried chicken manure, trailer loads, delivered. 860-537-1974.

46-R. NH TT75A Tractor w/bucket, 75 HP, NH 411 Discbine, NH BR 730 Round Baler, NH 276 Square Baler, Kuhn 4 star Tedder, 98 Bison Stock Trailer, Bale Spear, 5 ft. Tiller, cow manure. 203-770-4199. J&S Farm, New Milford, CT.

48-R. 16 foot aluminum refrigerated/freezer trailer perfect for Farmers' Markets or emergency backup. Call 860-302-0194.

49-R. Angus bull-proven breeder, Yearling Angus, and Angus cross heifer. Call Diane 860-302-0194.

50-R. Retiring from farming. Greenhouse and vegetable equipment for sale. www.wagonroadgreenhouse.com for pictures and details.

WANTED

30-R. Standing timber wanted. Hardwood/softwood, especially sugar maple/white oak. Top prices paid. Licensed and insured. 10 acre minimum. 860-798-4039.

51-R. Research, written information. Irving Lockwood stationery Hay-Baler; manufactured and patented 1906, Georgetown, CT. Tel. 203-544-8411. Leave msg.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-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-Tetreault Realty (860) 644-5667.



Above: A view through the windows of a greenhouse at Karabin Farms after they and roof panels automatically opened to allow cooler air to enter Monday afternoon.

Below: Diane Karabin's grandson Beauden, 6, feeding hay to beef cattle raised for meat at the farm.

Page 1: Karabin holding a hanging basket she designed that includes purple and rose-colored Calibrachoa, yellow Bidens and leafy green Ipomea in the center.



FREE DROUGHT, WATER MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP APRIL 20 IN HADDAM

Learn about drought preparedness, best practices for moisture management and how the state is support agriculture with the proposed State Water Plan.

The workshop will be held Thursday, April 20 from 7-9 p.m. and the Middlesex County Extension Center, 1066 Saybrook Road (Route 154) in Haddam.

Speakers include Dina Blais from USDA-NRCS; Angie Harris, a research assistant at UConn and Mike O'Neill of UConn Extension.

Sponsored by Connecticut RC&D and the Lower CT River Valley COG with the help of a Farm Viability Grant from the state Dept. of Agriculture.

For more information, call 860-581-8554.

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 Jane.Murdock@ct.gov or call 860-713-2588.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 450 Columbus Blvd. Suite 701, Hartford CT 06103.

Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2017.

VOL. XCVII, No. 14, April 12, 2017

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