

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
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Connecticut Department of Agriculture
August 16, 2017



FAMILY'S PERSEVERANCE, ADAPTABILITY LEADS TO SUCCESS, CENTURY FARM AWARD

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

SOUTH WINDSOR – Speaking no English when they arrived here from Lithuania around 1900, Peter and Mary Kasheta found work on the Scoville farm, using their experience raising livestock and vegetables in their home country.

By 1905, the couple had managed to save enough to pay owner William R. Scoville \$6,000 for 90 acres that ran in a relatively narrow strip from Main Street west to the banks of the Connecticut River.

They planted most of the flat, fertile land in broadleaf tobacco as a cash crop, and raised produce and animals to feed their family and sell to the large Lithuanian population that settled in and around Hartford at the time.

"It was a full service farm," great-grandson Ed Kasheta Jr., said this week in his house that was built on the original farm. "People used to come to buy fruit, vegetables, cheese and milk."

Today, the farm has expanded to include 400 acres of grain corn, 20 acres each of tobacco and giant pumpkins, and 100 acres of sod.

The family's longevity and perseverance through myriad ups-and-downs over the last 112 years led to Kasheta Farms receiving this year's Century Farm Award from the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council.

The annual award recognizes "a farm that has been in family operation for more than 100 years, and has

outstanding potential to be a successful business for another 100 years."

Ed Kasheta Jr. said the bedrock of the farm's survival and success has been the family's ability to adapt to endless challenges and market fluctuations as the generations passed.

"You have to diversify," he said while steering his pickup through seemingly endless fields of tall corn. "On a farm you live through high interest rates, high fuel and labor prices, changes in the market and you're always fighting the weather. But we just keep going."

The farm's need and ability to adapt over the years is perhaps demonstrated best by its experience growing and selling tobacco and potatoes.

Broadleaf tobacco leaves used for cigar wrappers had been the foundation of the farm into the mid-1950s, when large tobacco companies learned how to produce "sheet tobacco" by grinding the entire plant and baking the slurry on sheets.

Within just a few years, the tobacco market for farms like the Kasheta's, then being run by Ed's father Edward W. Kasheta, Sr. and his grandfather Walter Kasheta, was essentially decimated.

So the family decided to cut their tobacco acreage and increase their crop of potatoes – a staple of the Lithuanian diet - to about 150 acres.

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

XTRA LARGE	.88	1.03
LARGE	.82	.96
MEDIUM	.49	.62

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

XTRA LARGE	1.44	1.55
LARGE	1.40	1.49
MEDIUM	.84	.94
SMALL	.48	.58

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

52-56	250-300 lbs	60.00	66.50
	300-350 lbs	59.00	60.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	52.00	62.00
	300-350 lbs	49.00	52.00
	350-400 lbs	52.00	52.00
Sows, US 1-3			
	300-500 lbs	52.50	60.00
	500-800 lbs	62.00	67.50
Boars	300-400 lbs	15.00	21.00
	600-900 lbs	12.00	17.50

USDA WHOLESALE CUTFLOWERS

August 8, 2017. \$/pack as noted.

AGERATUM,NENG, PA, /BN, L	7.50	8.50
ALLIUM, DRMSTC, NENG, BN	8.50	9.00
AMARANTHUS, UPRT, PA, /BN	8.50	8.50
ASCLEPIAS, PA, 10/BN, LNG	8.00	10.00
CELOSIA, PA, PLUMOSA, BN	8.50	8.50
CORNFLOWER, CA, 25/BN, L	8.50	8.50
DAHLIA, 5/BN, PA, LONG	8.50	8.50
DELPHNM, HYB, NENG, 10/BN	14.00	14.00
GLAD, STD, NJ, 10/BN, LNG	8.50	8.50
GOMPHRENA, PA, /BN, LONG	10.00	10.00
LAVENDER, PA, PER BN, LNG	10.00	10.00
LILY, SRBNE, ME, /BN, LNG	25.00	25.00
LISANTHUS, NENG, 10/BN, L	17.50	18.50
QUN ANNE LACE, CA, /BN, L	10.00	10.00
SNAPDRGON, NENG, 10/BN, L	12.00	12.75
STOCK, CA, DBL, 5/BN, LNG	12.00	12.00
SUNFLWER, NENG, 5/BN, XL	6.50	7.50
SUNFLWER, NENG, 10/BN, L	8.50	8.50
YARROW, YLW, CD, /BN, L	8.50	8.50
ZINNIA, PA, /BN, LONG	6.50	6.50

USDA WHOLESALE HERBS

August 16, 2017. \$/unit.

ANISE, CA, 24	48.00	48.00
ARUGULA, BABY, NJ, 4 LB	12.00	13.50
BASIL, NJ, 15 BN/12 BRUCE	18.00	22.00
CHEVIL, NJ, 1 LB, 12 BN	7.00	8.00
CHIVES, MA& NH, 1 LB	8.00	11.00
CILANTRO, CA, 30 BN	19.00	20.00
CIPOLINOS, NY, 10 LBS	16.00	18.00
DILL, NJ, 12 BN/1 LB BAG	7.00	7.00
HORSERADISH, MS, 5 LBS	12.00	14.00
MARJAROM, NJ, 12 BN/1 LB	7.00	8.00
MINT, MA, 1/2 BU, 12 BNCH	10.00	12.00
OREGANO, NJ, 1 LB BAG	7.00	9.00
ROSEMARY, NJ, 1 LB, 12	7.00	10.00
SAGE, NJ, 1 LB, 12 BNCH	7.00	9.00
SAVORY, NJ, 1 LB	7.00	10.00
SORREL, NJ, 12 BN/1LB	10.00	12.00
TARRAGON, NH, 1 LB, 12	10.00	10.00
THYME, NJ, 12 BN/1LB	7.00	8.00
WATERCRSS, FL, 12 BNCH	10.50	12.00
WATERCRSS, FL, 24 BNCH	14.00	16.00
WNTERCRS, GHS, PA, 2.2LB	13.00	16.00
WNTRCRS, ORG, GH, PA, 2.2#26.00	26.00	26.00

CONNECTICUT FARMERS' MARKET

Price per lb or as noted. August 12-16, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
APPLES, GINGER GOLD HNDL	15.00	15.00
APPLES, EARLY MAC, /QT	3.00	3.00
BLACKBERRIES, 6-1PT	35.00	35.00
BLUEBERRIES, W/FILM, PINT	5.00	5.00
CABBAGE, PER HEAD	3.00	3.00
CARROTS, PER BUNCH	2.00	2.00
CORN, SWEET, EACH	.33	.50
CORN, SWEET, PER DOZEN	5.00	6.00
CUKES, EACH	.75	1.50
CUKES, 1/2 BU	10.00	15.00
CUKES, PICKLERS, 1/2 BU	20.00	55.00
CUKES, PICKLERS, QUART	3.00	4.00
EGGPLANT, QUART	4.00	4.00
EGGS, PER DOZEN	3.00	3.00
GREENS, /BUNCH	1.00	3.00
PARSLEY, CURLY, /BUNCH	1.00	1.00
PEACHES, QUART	3.00	5.00
PEACHES, 8 QT HANDLE	15.00	15.00
RADISHES, PER BUNCH	1.00	1.00
RADISHES, PER BOX	10.00	10.00
SQUASH, QUART	3.00	4.00
TOMATOES, PER QT	4.00	4.00
TOMATOES, CANNERS, 1/2 BU	10.00	10.00
TOMATO, CHERRY, HNDL BSKT	15.00	15.00
TOMATO, PURPLCHRRY, HBSKT	15.00	15.00

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

APPLES, GINGR GOLD, LOOSE	22.00	22.00
APPLES, JRYSY MAC, LOOSE	22.00	22.00
APPLES, JRYSY MAC, 12-3 LB	22.00	22.00
BEANS, FLAT GREEN, BU	28.00	28.00
BEANS, GRN, HNDPKD, BU	28.00	30.00
BEANS, WAX, BU	38.00	38.00
BEETS, 12 BN/CARTON	15.00	16.00
BLUEBERRY, 12-1PT CUP W/LID	30.00	38.00
BROCCOLI, BUNCHED, 14	13.00	15.00
BROCCOLI, 20 LBS	14.00	16.00
CABBAGE, GREEN, 50 LBS	12.00	14.00
CABBAGE, RED, 50 LBS	18.00	18.00
CARROTS, 25 LB SACKS	11.00	11.00
CAULIFLOWER, 9S, JKTPK	14.00	14.00
CAULIFLOWER, 12S, JKTPK	15.00	18.00
COLLARDS, CRATE, BNCHD, 12	12.00	13.00
CORN, 5 DOZ	15.00	18.00
CUKE, PCKLING, BU	30.00	30.00
CUKES, SS, 1-1/9	18.00	22.00
EGGPLANT, 1-1/9	14.00	20.00
KALE, BUNCHED, 12	12.00	13.00
KALE, 18 LBS	16.00	16.00
KALE, LACINITO, BUNCHED, 12	16.00	16.00
MUSTARD, 12	15.00	15.00
PEAS, ENGLISH, 1-1/9 BU	58.00	60.00
PEPPER, GREEN BELL, XL, 1-1/9	12.00	18.00
POTATO, RND WHT, CHF, 50LB	16.00	16.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, #1, 1/2 BU	16.00	18.00
SQUASH, GREEN, #1, 1/2 BU	10.00	12.00
SQUASH, YELSTRNCK, M, 1/2 BU	10.00	16.00
SQUASH, YELSTRNCK, S, 1/2 BU	12.00	18.00
TOM, GHS, CHRRY, ONVINE, 5 LB	13.00	14.00
TOMS, GHS, VNR, 25 LBS	18.00	22.00
TOMS, GHS, 11 LBS, ON VINE	12.00	14.00
TOMATOES, NATIVE, 20 LBS	26.00	26.00
TURNIP TOPS GREENS, 12 BN	15.00	15.00
TOMS, GHS, 11 LBS, ON VINE	12.00	14.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - August 14, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	45.00	48.00
61-75 lbs.	52.00	55.00
76-90 lbs.	83.00	88.00
91-105 lbs.	89.00	92.50
106 lbs. & up	95.00	98.00
Farm Calves	100.00	170.00
Starter Calves	30.00	35.00
Veal Calves	80.00	130.00
Feeder Heifers	70.00	120.00
Beef Heifers	65.00	69.50
Feeder Steers	115.00	127.50
Beef Steers	92.00	100.00
Feeder Bulls	67.00	88.00
Beef Bulls	78.00	99.00
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	n/a	n/a
Sheep each	97.50	215.00
Lambs each	100.00	310.00
Goats each	50.00	280.00
Kid Goats each	70.00	240.00
Canners up to		65.00
Cutters	66.00	69.00
Utility Grade Cows	70.00	73.00
Rabbits each	4.00	25.00
Chickens each	4.00	17.00
Ducks each	5.00	20.00

LANCASTER, PA, LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. unless noted

SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	69.00	74.50
boners 80-85% lean	69.00	74.50
lean 88-90% lean	61.00	67.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	114.00	119.00
Choice 2-3	115.50	114.00
Select 1-2	109.00	113.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Hi Choice/Prime 3-4	95.00	97.00
Choice 2-3	89.00	93.50
Sel 1-2	84.00	89.50
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 2-3	110.00	113.50
Choice 2-3	107.00	111.00
Sel 1-2	103.00	105.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 104-130 lbs	100.00	115.00
No 1 80-102 lbs	120.00	130.00

DAIRY REPLACEMENT COWSN. Holland, PA, August 9, 2017
By the head

FRESH COWS:		
SUPREME	1700.00	1925.00
APPROVED	1350.00	1675.00
MEDIUM	950.00	1250.00
SPRINGING COWS (7-9 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	1300.00	1450.00
MEDIUM	800.00	1075.00
BRED COWS (4-6 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	1000.00	1200.00
MEDIUM	900.00	975.00
CULL COWS	400.00	1200.00

(Continued from page 1)

For quite a few years, it looked like a good business decision.

Ed remembers helping deliver heavy bags of potatoes to blocks of multiple-story tenement houses in Hartford as a boy.

“Back then people had potatoes almost every meal,” he recalled. “People would stock up for the winter and we’d go house-to-house lugging 150-pound bags of potatoes up three, four flights of stairs.”

But when that generation of customers passed on around the late 1960s, their children’s appetite for potatoes dropped sharply, as did the Kasheta’s business in the crop.

“The next generation – they would buy one or two potatoes at a time,” Ed Jr. said. “The whole valley here was big in potato farms and then people just stopped using them like that. We weren’t big enough to deal with McDonald’s or the chip factories, so we tried vegetables.”

Growing tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and other traditional vegetables never panned out as they would have liked, so the family decided to make a bold move and open a landscaping business, eventually growing their own sod to be used on jobs and sold to other firms.

More income was brought in from using the landscaping trucks to plow snow in winter.

“We got into landscaping out of a necessity to keep the cash flowing,” Ed Jr. said of the business headed by his brother David. “Just to stay alive, really.”

Another brother, Don, runs the family’s well-known power equipment store on Route 5.

Ed Jr. heads the production of grain corn, another market which has had its share of fluctuations over the years but overall has provided a consistent income for the farm.

Most of its grain corn is now sold to a broker and as

chicken feed to Hillandale Farms in Franklin and Lebanon, formerly known as Kofkoff Farms.

With plenty of timely rain and intermittent heat this season, Ed Jr. says the corn crop is exceptional – taller than normal for this time of year with many stalks producing two ears instead of the more typical single ear.

“It’s going to be a good season for corn - they’re really making ears this year,” he said, pulling close to the edge of a field where stalks reached higher than the roof of his truck.

His father, now 95, still runs the farm’s enormous corn combine, purchased two seasons ago and able to harvest six rows at a time.

This week, Ed Sr. was helping with the tobacco harvest, driving a tractor pulling loaded wagons down Main Street from the fields to the curing barns.

“He just loves to drive the tractors, believe me,” Ed Jr. chuckled as his father passed him on the street with a subtle wave of his hand.

While the farm’s years of resilience in the face of change has resulted in hard-earned stability, Ed Jr. says he is still looking for ways to broaden its market.

Next in his sight: hops.

With the explosion in popularity of craft beer, and a new law allowing Connecticut “farm breweries” to brew and sell beer made with Connecticut-grown hops and other ingredients, Kasheta plans to plant about a half-acre next spring “to get a feel for it.”

“I see great potential in hops,” he said. “Microbreweries in Connecticut are doing very well and I think hops are going to be in demand. It’s another revenue stream.”

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said: “Kasheta Farms has a rich history and has evolved with the times over the years. Ed and his family have been active members of our larger agricultural community and this recognition of them with the Century Farm Award is well deserved.”

FOR SALE

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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.

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.

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Top: A cornfield and a tobacco barn flank an expanse of sod at Kasheta Farms in South Windsor.

Above: The farm's original farmhouse on Main Street.

Above right: A worker hanging a lathe of tobacco in a curing barn.

Page 1 left: Ed Kasheta Jr., and his wife Sue are joined by Agriculture Cmsr. Steven K. Reviczky (l) and Dr. Ted Andreadis, Director of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, while receiving the Century Farm Award during Plant Science Day at the experiment station in Hamden earlier this month.

Page 1 right: Ed Kasheta Sr., driving tractor, follows his son into a barn where just-cut broadleaf tobacco will be cured.

FSMA

What Does It Mean For Farmers?

You're Invited to an Informational Session

Wednesday, August 23, 2017

10:00 AM - NOON

CAES Valley Laboratory

153 Cook Hill Road, Windsor, CT 06095

Featuring:

- Connecticut Department of Agriculture Staff
- Diane Hirsch, Lead FSMA Trainer
- Joseph Bonelli, Crop Insurance & Risk Management Update
- Tour of CAES Test Plots

Free program. No registration required. For more information, contact Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov or 860-713-2538.



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