

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
January 3, 2017

Have you heard the buzz?

CONNECTICUT GROWN HONEY



“IT’S A GOOD TIME TO BE A BEEKEEPER RIGHT NOW”

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

HAMPTON - To beekeeper and honey producer Adam Fuller, the hundreds of thousands of European Honeybees he raises are pretty much like livestock.

“They’re a farm animal – you have to think of it that way,” Fuller said last week at his A & Z Apiaries, one of several locations in Connecticut and New York where he keeps a total of about 350 hives. “Whether you have a herd of cows or a bunch of goats or a colony of bees, it’s all farming. You take care of them differently, but it’s really the same thing.”

One of the larger beekeepers in Connecticut and President of the Eastern Connecticut Beekeeper’s Association, Fuller produces more than 6,000 pounds of honey a year from his hives and also wholesales honey he buys from a New York producer.

He says locally-produced honey – which the Dept. of Agriculture is promoting this month on radio, social media and other outlets as its featured specialty crop for January - has seen a steady increase in popularity in the last decade or so.

“Demand is up for honey, for pollination services and for bees themselves,” said Fuller, who sells all three as well as hives he assembles in a woodworking shop that is home to his cabinet-making business. “Instead of refined sugar, a lot people want an unrefined product and they want a local product.



“It’s a good time to be a beekeeper right now.”

But becoming a successful beekeeper capable of tapping into that market is not an easy task. Bees are highly sensitive creatures that require care and feeding year-round, Fuller says, and even after three decades of beekeeping he is still learning their countless nuances.

Among his chief concerns is the Varroa Mite, believed to have arrived on bees imported from Asia in the 1980s and which infect bees with a deadly virus. Many blame the mite for the near wipeout of the European Honeybee about a decade ago.

“In 2006, the term “Colony Collapse Disorder” was coined and it was a catchy phrase that led to beekeepers getting serious about fighting it,” said Fuller, who considers the term a sensational label and blames the population decline simply on poor beekeeping practices. “But the bottom line is that honeybees are not capable of living on their own anymore in the wild. If you’re not taking care of your bees they’re going to die.”

About the size of a pinhead, the Varroa Mite often lodges behind a bee’s wings. It also reproduces in the cells of larval bees, known as “brood.” The mites jump off when brood are born, killing the bee as it leaves and perhaps infecting

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LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	55.00	62.50
boners 80-85% lean	52.50	62.00
lean 88-90% lean	50.00	60.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	111.00	118.00
Choice 2-3	105.00	115.00
Select 1-2	99.00	106.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	92.00	99.00
Choice 2-3	78.00	88.00
Sel 1-2	74.00	80.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime3-4	104.00	114.00
Sel 2-3	95.00	102.50
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 90-120 lbs	80.00	110.00
CALVES - Graded heifers		
No 1 90-120 lbs	200.00	255.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
90-110 lbs	200.00	217.00
110-130 lbs	205.00	217.00
130-150 lbs	181.00	185.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
100-160 lbs	97.00	112.00
160-200 lbs	105.00	115.00
200-300 lbs	123.00	123.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
20-40 lbs	125.00	125.00
40-60 lbs	165.00	190.00
60-80 lbs	190.00	215.00
80-100 lbs	190.00	235.00
100-120 lbs	215.00	245.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	170.00	200.00
130-180 lbs	200.00	235.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
100-150 lbs	240.00	260.00
150-250 lbs	415.00	500.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Avg dressing. Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	37.00	48.00
	300-350 lbs	36.00	43.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	30.00	36.50
	300-350 lbs	32.00	35.50
Sows, US 1-3	300-500 lbs	29.50	33.00
	500-600 lbs	28.00	33.50
Boars	250-350 lbs	15.00	15.00
	400-700 lbs	5.00	5.00

NATIONAL MONTHLY WHOLESALE GRASS FED BEEF

Primal cuts. \$/lb.

RIBEYE, BNLS, WHOLE	11.99	27.50
RIBEYE STEAK	15.00	19.95
CHUCK ROLL	8.50	13.65
SHOULDER CLOD	7.82	13.65
KNUCKLE, PEELED, WHOLE	5.89	8.25
TOP ROUND, INSIDE	8.89	12.25
BOTTOM RND, GOOSENECK	8.54	11.25
EYE OF THE ROUND	6.99	12.60
TENDERLOIN, WHOLE	19.99	49.35
TRI TIP	9.05	15.25
TOP BUTT, SIRLOIN, WHOLE	7.99	15.26
NEW YORK STEAK	20.05	26.98
SIRLOIN STEAK	12.03	21.44

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston 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, CORTLAND, XFCY, 72	32.00	32.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, XFCY, 64	70.00	70.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, XFCY, 80	70.00	70.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, XFCY, 88	70.00	70.00
APPLES, MAC, #1, CELLPK, 120	17.00	18.00
APPLES, MAC, #1, CELLPK, 140	17.00	18.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, 12-3 LB, 2-1/2"	22.00	22.00
APPLE, MAC, FCY, 12-3LB, 2-1/2"	18.00	18.00
APPLES, MAC, FCY, CELLPK, 120	18.00	19.00
APPLES, MAC, FCY, CELLPK, 140	18.00	19.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEETS, RED, MD, LOOSE, 25 LBS	7.00	7.00
BEETS, RED, SM, LOOSE, 25LBS	8.00	8.00
BEETS, GOLD, MED, 25 LBS	12.00	12.00
CIDER, APPLE, 4-1 GALLON	19.00	21.00
CIDER, APPLE, 9-1/2 GALLON	21.00	22.50
EGGPLANT, CHINESE, M, 1/2 BU	24.00	25.00
EGGPLANT, THAI, M, 1/2 BU	15.00	16.00
PARSNIPS, 20 LBS	23.00	23.00
PARSNIPS, 18-1 LB	22.00	23.00
POTATO, RNDRED, #1, SZA, 50LB	14.00	16.00
POTATO, RNDRED, #1, SZB, 50LB	18.00	19.00
POTATO, RNDRED, NG, SZA, 50LB	11.00	12.00
POTATO, RNDWT, #1, CHEF, 50LB	10.00	11.00
POTATO, RUSST, #1, 10 OZ, 50 LB	10.00	11.00
SQUASH, ACORN, MED 1-1/9	14.00	14.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, M, 1-1/9	12.00	14.00
SQUASH, BUTRNT, ACORN, /LB	.90	.90
SQUASH, KABOCHA, MED, 1-1/9	14.00	14.00
TOM, GHSE, CHRRYONVINE, 5LB	10.00	14.00
TOMATO, GHSE, CHRY, 8-10 OZ	20.00	24.00
TOMATO, GHSE HEIRLM, 10 LB	23.00	25.00
TURNIP, PURPLETOP, S-M, 25LB	12.00	12.00

NEW ENGLAND HONEY REPORT

Per unit, in dollars. Various market pricing.

HONEY- FARMERS MKT & RETAIL		
HONEY, ASSTD, 1 LB	9.00	12.00
CLEANED BEESWAX-WHOLESALE		
WHITE, 1 LB	5.50	5.75
WHITE, 50 LBS, PER LB	4.75	5.00
WT/LIGHT, BULK(>50 LBS), \$/LB	2.20	3.50
CLEANED BEESWAX, RETAIL		
WHITE, 1 LB	16.00	20.00
FOOD SERVICE		
HONEY, 5 GALLONS	200.00	245.00

NORTHEAST ORNAMENTALS

\$/Per unit.

LILY, ASIATIC, ME, BNCH	12.00	12.00
LILY, SORBONNE, ME, 10	20.00	20.00

N.EAST & S.EAST WHOLESALE HERBS

\$/Per unit.

CHERVIL, FL, 1 LB /12 BN	7.00	8.00
DRY ESCHALLOT, NY, 10 LBS	8.00	11.00
MARJORAM, FL, 1 LB, 10 BN	7.00	8.00
MINT, FL, 1 LB, 12 BN	7.00	8.00
OREGANO, FL, 1 LB, 12 BN	7.00	9.00
ROSEMARY, FL, 1 LB, 12 BN	7.00	10.00
SAVORY, FL, 1 LB, 12 BN	7.00	10.00
SORREL, FL, 1 LB, 12 BN	10.00	12.00
TARRAGON, FL, 1 LB, 12 BN	10.00	10.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - January 2, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	30.00	36.00
61-75 lbs.	42.00	45.00
76-90 lbs.	46.00	49.00
91-105 lbs.	50.00	55.00
106 lbs. & up	56.00	59.00
Farm Calves	60.00	66.00
Starter Calves	25.00	29.00
Veal Calves	90.00	120.00
Feeder Heifers	94.00	100.00
Beef Heifers	75.00	78.00
Feeder Steers	71.00	75.00
Beef Steers	78.00	97.00
Stock Bulls	80.00	112.00
Beef Bulls	84.00	92.50
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	1@	675.00
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	20.00	35.00
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	50.00	70.00
Sheep, bred, each	6-ea@	10.00
Lambs each	130.00	210.00
Goats each	175.00	295.00
Kid Goats each	120.00	230.00
Canners	up to	55.50
Cutters	56.00	59.00
Utility Grade Cows	60.00	65.00
Rabbits each	7.00	20.00
Chickens each	4.00	32.50
Ducks each	10.00	20.00

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	1.27	1.43
LARGE	1.21	1.36
MEDIUM	.72	.85

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	1.52	1.75
LARGE	1.45	1.68
MEDIUM	.92	1.03
SMALL	.66	.77

NORTHEAST RETAIL DAIRY

\$/per unit.

BUTTER, 1 LB	2.49	3.99
CHEESE, NAT, 8 OZ	1.99	3.00
CHEESE, NAT, 2 LB	3.99	9.99
CHEESE, 8 OZ SHRED	1.99	2.50
COTTAGECHEESE, 16OZ	1.50	2.99
CREAM CHEESE, 8 OZ	.85	2.99
EGG NOG, QUART	2.99	2.99
EGG NOG, 1/2 GAL	2.99	4.99
FLAVORD MILK, 1/2 GAL	1.99	2.50
ICE CREAM, 48-64 OZ	1.88	3.99
MILK, 1/2 GALLON	2.50	2.50
MILK, GALLON	3.99	3.99
SOUR CREAM, 16 OZ	1.33	2.00
YOGURT, GREEK, 4-6OZ	.80	1.25
YOGURT, GREEK, 32 OZ	2.99	4.99
YOGURT, 4-6 OZ	.33	1.00

NATIONAL RETAIL ORGANIC DAIRY

\$/per unit.

MILK, 1/2 GAL	3.99	4.29
YOGURT, GREEK, 4-6OZ	1.25	1.25
YOGURT, 32 OZ	3.69	3.69

(Continued from Page 1)

other members of the hive. Fuller says the first defense against the mite is to keep bees healthy through proper nutrition.

He supplements his colonies' diet of nectar, pollen and honey with a 50/50 syrup mix of sugar and water, delivered through a small metal tank placed in the hive, as well as plant-based "protein patties" that mimic natural pollen.

He also controls pests with chemical "miticides" and organic acids such as formic acid, which is a natural component of honey.

"The smart beekeepers are doing everything they can to keep their losses down," he said.

Fuller grew up on a small farm in Plimpton, Mass., and said he was introduced to beekeeping through his grandfather, who kept a few hives to pollinate his cranberry crop. He bought his first hives in the mid-1980s, and for many years sold a little honey as a hobby.

"I've always been fascinated with bees, he said. "Having honey was a secondary issue."

Now, in addition to caring for his own colonies, he takes annual trips to the South to buy bees that he sells to other beekeepers. He also pollinates about ten orchards and vegetable fields yearly in Eastern Connecticut by placing hives for a few weeks every spring.

"We bring them in at the beginning of the bloom and take them out at the end of the bloom," he said.

As summer approaches, the bees go into honey-making mode. Fuller is constantly visiting his hives during the production season, collecting a small harvest in July and the bulk of the crop in September as the bees begin to shut down for winter.

After using a chemical repellent to push the bees to the bottom of the hive, Fuller pulls out the wood-framed combs laden with honey, typically ten to a hive.

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.

102-R. Ion Insurance now offers Agri-Business insurance. For all of your personal and business needs, we've got you covered. Contact us today: IonInsurance.com, 203-729-5261 or toll-free 800-801-8013.

118-R. Land-Barn for sale. Harwinton, CT. 3.59 acres approved lot. Former Christmas tree farm. Flat, no wetlands. Barn very good condition, no rot. On slab. 12'x24' (can be sold separately). Call/text 860-806-0278. Both: \$100,000.00. Barn: \$2,500.00 or BO. 860-806-0278.

The combs are then hung in a tub-shaped metal extractor, which spins the combs and removes the honey. Most of his honey is sold to the Willimantic Food Co-op, which he has supplied since the mid-1990s.

The recent and persistent drought has hurt his production somewhat, because stressed trees, flowers and plants did not produce enough nectar for bees to make a large crop.

He said the most important nectar producers are honey-suckle and black locust in spring, clover and sumac in summer, and goldenrod and loosesstrife in the fall.

While each hive typically peaks at about 60,000 bees in the spring, that drops to about 15,000 to 20,000 in winter, when the bees are partially dormant and form a tight cluster to maintain a survival temperature of about 60 degrees.

"They're spending their energy on forming a nucleus capable of keeping warm," Fuller said as he pulled a cover off a hive where the faint sound of buzzing bees could be heard. "They're consuming honey to do that and they're not doing much else."

Fuller says the popularity of locally-produced honey has been partly sparked by the common belief that it can control allergies and other ailments in those who eat it, but he remains skeptical.

"I'm not a doctor and I don't make any medicinal claims," he said with a smile. "We're in the food business and I sell a delicious product that has some nutritional value as opposed to sugar which has none. That's it."

For more information on honey producers and recipes please visit:

www.CTGrown.gov/honey

DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE OFFICES MOVING NEXT WEEK

As of Jan. 7, the Department's new address will be 450 Columbus Ave., Suite 701, Hartford CT 06103. All telephone numbers will remain the same.

120-R. Beeswax; 1 oz., 6 oz., 1 lb, and 2 lb blocks. Pure CT Grown cappings wax, Full Bloom Apiaries, 860-235-0624.

122-R. For Sale: Straw mulch for bedding, construction. \$4.00 per bale. 2013 John Deere 2-row corn planter. New condition. \$9,000.00. Franklin Can-Car cable log skidder. \$11,900.00. Bellavance Farm 860-564-5717.

123-R. For Sale: Agricultural equipment and supplies, including feeders, waterers, scales, chutes, gates, and headlocks. SVF Sales 860-749-4795.

124-R. Dried chicken manure delivered by trailer load. J.D. 3430 tractor. Fruehaus aluminum dump trailer. 860-537-1974.

125-R. 40' box storage trailers. \$1,000.00 each. Goats, Kiko/Saranna. Does and bucks. Call 860-537-1974.

126-R. Modine Effinity 93 propane greenhouse heater model PTC 215 215,000 BTU/Hr. Still in box-never used. Includes hanger kit. \$2,000.00. 203-457-1304.

WANTED

105-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.



Left: Honeycombs hanging in a hive at A&Z Apiaries in Hampton.

Right: An empty comb in an extractor, which spins the honey off the frame.

Page 1: Adam Fuller pulls the cover off one of his hives last week.



FARM TRANSITION GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 14, 2017

Grant guidelines and applications for the Dept. of Agriculture's Farm Transition Grant program are available online and must be submitted by February 14.

The program provides grants to up to \$49,999. Applicants must provide a 1 to match. The purpose of the program is to strengthen the economic viability of Connecticut farmers and agricultural cooperatives.

Funding priorities for 2017 include:

- Meeting food safety requirements for advanced positioning in the marketplace.
- Strengthening infrastructure to meet changing climate conditions.
- Processing Connecticut Grown products to increase year-round market availability and farm viability.
- Diversification of existing farm operations into new and emerging crops and/or product lines.

Grant guidelines and forms can be found at www.CTGrown.gov/grants. Four workshops on how to write a project plan and apply for the grant will be offered. Please send RSVP 24 hours prior to the meeting to Jaime.Smith@ct.gov or call 860-713-2559.

January 18, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

CT Ag Experiment Station
153 Cook Hill Road
Windsor, CT 06095

This workshop will address how the grant can help farms comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act.

January 20, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

CT Farm Bureau Assoc.
78 Beaver Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109

January 24, 10:00 a.m.-noon

Session Woods Wildlife Management
341 Milford St
Burlington, CT 06013

January 26, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

UConn Extension Office
562 New London Turnpike
Norwich, CT 06360

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 Ave., Suite 701, Hartford CT 06103. For more information contact Jane.Murdock@ct.gov or call 860-713-2588.

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