

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Revczky, Commissioner



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
April 4, 2018



GREAT AMERICAN AQUACULTURE NEARS FIRST HARVEST

Bureau of Aquaculture

Great American Aquaculture LLC (dba Ideal Fish) has launched an aquaculture business in Connecticut that will produce fresh, sustainable, and safe seafood in land-based, recirculating aquaculture systems.

The company is nearing its first commercial harvest of European seabass, or Branzino, which is expected to occur sometime in early May 2018.

Ideal Fish's facility is located in a 63,000 square-foot former manufacturing building in Waterbury, CT that was originally built in the 1960s by the Waterbury Button Company. The facility has access to high-quality water, power, natural gas, and wastewater treatment.

The building has been repurposed to raise fish using a state-of-the-art Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) that recycles more than 95% of the water required in the cultivation process.

Construction of the new facility commenced in late 2016 under the management of PAC Group, a local construction management company located in Torrington, CT, and will be fully complete by the end of April 2018.

As the first commercial-scale RAS in Connecticut that raises finfish, and one of only a few in the country that raises an ocean-going food fish in salt water, Ideal Fish hopes to significantly advance the

use of RAS technology in the domestic aquaculture industry and enhance the growth of land-based aquaculture industry in Connecticut.

"We believe that recirculating aquaculture systems offer the ideal solution to some of the serious challenges facing seafood consumers in this country as they attempt to source fresh, high quality, traceable and safe seafood products", said Eric Pedersen, Ideal Fish's founder and CEO.

As a high-value species, Branzino's popularity has been rapidly increasing in the United States since its introduction in 2012. Since then, imports have grown nearly 50% per year and are expected to grow by approximately 15% per year into the foreseeable future.

The vast majority of the nearly 8,000 metric tons of fresh seabass making its way to the North American market is farmed in sea cage operations throughout the Mediterranean—Greece and Turkey being the largest producing nations in the region.

Once the fish arrives at the retailer or restaurant, it has made its way through numerous distribution legs, including an overnight flight across the Atlantic, and is often nearly a week old.

Ideal Fish intends to sell most of its production directly into the grocery channel and to large restaurant groups. This will allow Ideal Fish to



Ideal Fish founder and CEO Eric Pedersen displays a European seabass (Branzino) raised in Waterbury, CT. All photos courtesy of Ideal Fish.

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NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	2.64	2.78
LARGE	2.62	2.76
MEDIUM	1.53	1.66

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	2.41	2.50
LARGE	2.40	2.50
MEDIUM	1.66	1.85
SMALL	.82	.92

LANCASTER, PA LIVESTOCK

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	52.00	56.50
boners 80-85% lean	52.00	56.50
lean 88-90% lean	45.00	51.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	118.00	122.00
Choice 2-3	114.00	118.00
Select 1-2	110.00	114.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	85.00	90.00
Choice 2-3	80.00	84.00
Select 1-2	75.00	78.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	113.50	119.00
Choice 2-3	110.00	113.50
Select 1-2	109.00	111.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 102-130 lbs	100.00	112.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
90-110 lbs	235.00	252.00
110-130 lbs	210.00	230.00
130-150 lbs	172.00	190.00
150-200 lbs	150.00	170.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-120 lbs	110.00	135.00
120-160 lbs	87.00	110.00
160-200 lbs	75.00	95.00
200-300 lbs	70.00	85.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
0-20 lbs	95.00	125.00
20-40 lbs	125.00	150.00
40-60 lbs	150.00	172.00
80-100 lbs	185.00	215.00
100-120 lbs	230.00	240.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	160.00	205.00
130-180 lbs	215.00	230.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
80-100 lbs	180.00	190.00
100-150 lbs	210.00	230.00
150-250 lbs	270.00	330.00

HAY REPORT, LANCASTER, PA

Small squares, per ton or as marked.

ALFALFA/GRASS		
GOOD	190.00	245.00
TIMOTHY/ORCHARD		
GOOD	185.00	200.00
STRAW	155.00	175.00
BALAGE		
ALFALFA, PER BALE	40.00	60.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices CONNECTICUT AND NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LBS	14.00	15.00
APPLE,CORTLAND, XFCY, 2-1/2"	28.00	29.00
APPLE,CORTLAND,XFCY, 80	28.00	30.00
APPLE,CORTLAND,XFCY, 88	30.00	30.00
APPL,CRTLND,FCY,12-3LB	22.00	22.00
APPLE, FUJI, US FANCY, 56	24.00	24.00
APPLE, FUJI, US FANCY, 80	24.00	24.00
APPLE, FUJI, US FANCY, 88	24.00	24.00
APPLE, FUJI, US FANCY, 125	20.00	20.00
APPLE, GALA, #1, 12-3LB, 2-1/2"	21.00	21.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, #1, 12-3LB	20.00	20.00
APPLE,MAC, XFCY,TRYPK 72	30.00	31.00
APPLE,MAC,XFCY,TRYPK 80	30.00	31.00
APPLE,MAC,XFCY,TRYPK 88	26.00	31.00
APPLE,MAC,XFCY,TRYPK 100	24.00	26.00
APPLE,MAC,USFCY,TRYPK 80	21.00	21.00
APPLE,MAC,USFCY,TRYPK 88	21.00	21.00
APPLE,MAC,USFCY,TRYPK 125	17.00	18.00
APPLE,MAC,USFCY,TRYPK 138	17.00	18.00
APPLE, RED DEL, XFCY, 88	24.00	24.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 64	24.00	24.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 72	24.00	24.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 80	24.00	24.00
APPLE, RED DEL, #1, 12-3LB	20.00	20.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
CIDER, 4-1 GALLON	22.00	22.00
CIDER, 9-1/2 GALLON	26.00	26.00
POTATO,RNDRED,#1,SZA,50LB	15.00	18.00
POTATO,RNDRED,#1,SZB,50LB	20.00	28.00
PTATO,RDWHT,NONSA,10-5LB	14.00	15.00
PTATO, YELLOW, #1CHEF, 50LB	15.00	16.00
TOMS, GHSE, ONVINE, 11 LB	20.00	20.00

BOSTON SHIPPED IN

Price Range. Per unit.

ASPARAGUS,CA,11 LB,BNCH,L	25.00	25.00
BOK CHOY, FL, 1-3/4 BU	20.00	25.00
CABBAGE, FL, 50 LB, MED	15.00	17.00
CABBAGE, RED, FL, 50 LB, M	18.00	20.00
CHINESE CABBAGE,FL, 30 LB	18.00	22.00
COLLARDS, GA, 12 BNCH/CTN	13.00	14.00
CUKES, WAXED, FL, 1-1/9, M	20.00	22.00
DANDELION GRNS, FL, 12	18.00	18.00
ENDIVE, FL, 1-1/9, 12	16.00	16.00
ESCAROLE, FL, 1-1/9, 24	16.00	16.00
KALE, LACINITO, TX, 12	20.00	20.00
KALE, MULTI, CA, 24	24.00	24.00
LETT,REDLF,CA/AZ, 24	17.00	21.00
MESCLIN MIX, CA, 3 LBS	6.50	7.50
MUSTARD, CRLY, GA, 12	14.00	14.00
ONIONS,BULB, GA, 24 BN/CTN	27.00	27.00
PARSLEY, TX, 60BN/CTN	20.00	22.00
PEPPERS, FL, 1-1/9, JUMBO	18.00	20.00
PEPPERS, FL, 1-1/9, XLARGE	16.00	18.00
PEPPERS, FL, 1-1/9, LARGE	15.00	16.00
PEPPER,CUBNL, FL, 1-1/9, M-L	20.00	24.00
PTATO,YEL,FL,3/4-1-5/8", 50LB	52.00	58.00
RADISHES, FL, 24 BN/CRT	14.00	14.00
RHUBARB,OR,OPNFIELD,20 LB	48.00	48.00
SPINACH, FLAT, CA, 24	26.00	28.00
SPINACH, SAVOY, CA, 24	20.00	24.00
SWISS CHARD,MIX, TX, 12	18.00	18.00
SWISS CHARD, RED, CA, 12	16.00	18.00
TOMS, CHRRY, FL, 12-1PT	15.00	17.00
TOMS, GRAPE, FL, 20 LB, LOOSE	28.00	28.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - April 2, 2018

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	18.00	24.00
61-75 lbs.	60.00	65.00
76-90 lbs.	70.00	75.00
91-105 lbs.	85.00	95.00
106 lbs. & up	115.00	120.00
Farm Calves	130.00	265.00
Starter Calves	25.00	30.00
Veal Calves	77.50	135.00
Feeder Heifers	65.00	110.00
Beef Heifers	70.00	82.00
Feeder Steers	75.00	125.00
Beef Steers	77.00	88.00
Feeder Bulls	110.00	117.50
Beef Bulls	67.50	90.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs each	6@	175.00
Feeder Pigs each	n/a	n/a
Sheep each	100.00	125.00
Lambs each	125.00	200.00
Goats each	100.00	350.00
Kid Goats each	100.00	202.50
Canners	up to	55.00
Cutters	56.00	59.00
Utility Grade Cows	60.00	62.00
Rabbits each	8.00	22.00
Chickens each	11.00	19.00
Ducks each	4.00	20.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	49.00	56.00
	300-350 lbs	52.00	58.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	43.00	50.00
	300-350 lbs	49.00	54.00
Sows, US 1-3			
	300-500 lbs	31.00	39.00
	500-750 lbs	31.00	39.50
Boars	350-400 lbs	5.00	6.00
	475-800 lbs	5.00	6.00

DAIRY REPLACEMENT COWS

N. Holland, PA, March 28. By the head.

FRESH COWS:		
SUPREME	1375.00	1725.00
APPROVED	950.00	1350.00
MEDIUM	600.00	660.00
SHORT BRED COWS (1-3 MONTHS):		
SUPREME	1300.00	1300.00
APPROVED	850.00	1150.00
MEDIUM	575.00	660.00
BRED COWS (4-8 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	925.00	1300.00
MEDIUM	575.00	900.00
SPRINGING COWS (7-8 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	1050.00	1300.00
SPRINGING HEIFERS (7-9 MONTHS):		
SUPREME	1200.00	1300.00
APPROVED	850.00	1125.00
MEDIUM	625.00	850.00
BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	750.00	875.00
MEDIUM	625.00	850.00
BULLS:		
600-900 LBS	400.00	400.00
900-1200 LBS	950.00	950.00
1200-1500 LBS	800.00	800.00

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bring its fish to the customer within 24 hours of harvest.

“By locating RAS facilities directly into the markets they serve, fish can be supplied directly to retail outlets and consumers virtually on the same day they are harvested,” said Pedersen.

The Waterbury facility does not discharge any of its culture water or waste products directly into the environment, which eliminates the risk of escapism of this fish.

Ideal Fish plans to develop its business in three phases, the first of which is to successfully launch its seabass operations in Waterbury.

In the second phase, the company intends to demonstrate the viability of aquaponics at the Waterbury facility through the addition of a pilot-scale aquaponics operation using nutrients supplied by the RAS.

RAS systems are uniquely able to recover the waste products of fish production (feces, uneaten food, and carbon dioxide) and use them to supply nutrients for vegetable, herb, or leafy green production in an aquaponics system.

In particular, the RAS system in Waterbury employs an innovative technology that removes most of the salt water from the fish waste. This allows for the aquaponics production of plants and produce that grow in fresh water. All of the plants grown in an aquaponics system will be grown without the use of any pesticides or chemicals.

“RAS also addresses the critical responsibility of raising enough fish and other seafood products, in a long term, sustainable way, both to feed the growing population and to protect our environment—not just for today but well into the future,” said Pedersen.

Ideal Fish intends to commission the pilot scale aquaponics system the end of the summer of 2018 in an 8,000 square foot isolated area of the building before building out a full-scale system at the Waterbury site in 2019.

In the third phase of the build-out strategy, Ideal Fish will expand company-owned and -operated production facilities within Connecticut to serve the seafood market between Boston and New York City.

Over a ten-year period, Ideal Fish expects to expand beyond Connecticut, developing 10,000 to 20,000 metric tons of annual production capacity that will produce in excess of \$100 million in annual sales, and create over 350 new jobs. The majority of these new jobs will be in Connecticut.

CONNECTICUT PRIVATE APPLICATOR PESTICIDE CERTIFICATE PREPARATION CLASS

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) Valley Laboratory will conduct a preparation class for people who are interested in obtaining a Connecticut private applicator certificate from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

This effort has two goals: 1. Effective January 1, 2018, all neonicotinoid pesticides (neonics), which have become very popular with many farmers, including tobacco, hop and Christmas tree growers, will be classified as restricted use

ADVERTISEMENTS

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.

10-R Greenhouse furnaces, 300,000-400,000 BTU's. Price range from \$1,500 to \$3,000. Call Alex 203-223-4853.

16-R. Farm stand for rent May and June. 30x30 building with attached greenhouse. Established customer base for annuals, bedding plants and perennials. Contact Alex Arisco @ 203-271-0549.

21-R. Round hay bales – 52" X 48" – Triple plastic wrapped, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, dry, haylage, grass, alfalfa. \$40.00 and up. 860-884-2889.

27-R. For Sale: 35 x 100 gabled greenhouse – included tables for hydroponics, fans, lights. For more information, call Marshall at 860.810.4440.

29-R. Round hay bales. Large. Unwrapped. 1st cutting. Fertilized grass hay. \$40.00 a bale and up. 203-264-2217.

WANTED

7-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

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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pesticides and thus unavailable to anyone without at least a private applicator certificate (formerly known as PA license); 2. The class will also serve as a refresher for growers who already have licenses and those who are simply interested in pesticide safety and understanding the relationships between crops, pests, and appropriate management strategies.

The class will be conducted on three consecutive Thursday evenings in April (4/12, 4/19, and 4/26). The first two evenings will run approximately three hours and will consist entirely of instruction and discussion. The third evening will consist of a review of all pertinent information discussed in the first two classes followed by an opportunity to take the test (for those who wish to). Anyone wishing to take the test at a later date will have to make their own arrangements with DEEP.

The class will be conducted by Rose Hiskes, who is the diagnostician at the CAES Valley Lab in Windsor, Jatinder Aulakh, Weed Scientist at the Valley Lab, and Tom Rathier, Emeritus Soil Scientist with CAES. There will be no charge for the classes themselves. Likely expenses for those in the class are as follows:

Pesticide Applicator Training Manual (Core Manual) is available as a custom-print version for \$25 or at UCONN Pubs for \$40. The Core Manual will be the basis for most of the instruction and is highly recommended. The DEEP charge to take the test is \$200 and the DEEP charge for the actual license if the test is passed is \$100.

To register for the classes, contact Tom Rathier at thomas.rathier@ct.gov or Rose Hiskes at Rose.Hiskes@ct.gov.

USDA REOPENS ENROLLMENT FOR IMPROVED DAIRY SAFETY NET TOOL

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue is encouraging dairy producers to consider enrolling in the new and improved Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy), which will provide better protections for dairy producers from shifting milk and feed prices. With changes authorized under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) has set the enrollment period to run from April 9, 2018 to June 1, 2018.

The program protects dairy producers by paying them when the difference between the national all-milk price and



the national average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount elected by the producer.

For more information visit <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/Dairy-MPP/index>.

VETERINARIAN OF THE YEAR

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky and the entire Department of Agriculture would like to extend their congratulations to Dr. Bruce Sherman, DVM, MPH, on being named the 2018 Veterinarian of the Year by the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA). Dr. Sherman has been the agency's Director of Regulatory Services, previously the Director of Regulation and Inspection, since joining the agency in 1991.

The Veterinarian of the Year Award is designed to pay tribute to an individual who has contributed to the advancement of veterinary medicine in Connecticut in areas of education, research, practice, organized medicine or regulatory service. The CVMA itself dates back to 1884.

The Department of Agriculture takes very seriously its mission to foster a healthy economic, environmental, and social climate for agriculture by developing, promoting, and regulating agricultural businesses. The recognition conferred on Dr. Sherman by the CVMA evidences the commitment of the agency to achieving that mission. Again, please join us in extending most sincere congratulations to Dr. Sherman on this great acknowledgement.

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.

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