

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
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Connecticut Department of Agriculture
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FIRST ANNUAL HOP GROWERS MEETING SHOWS POTENTIAL FOR CROP, "CONNECTICUT STYLED" BEER

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

NORTHFORD – The new hops-pelletizing machine being stored in Alex DeFrancesco's greenhouse hasn't even been powered up yet, but it was the center of attention last week at the first-ever annual meeting of the Connecticut Hop Growers Association.

The meeting at his family's DeFrancesco Farm drew about 60 current or potential growers and others looking to stake a claim in the emerging industry surrounding the brewing of locally-produced craft beer.

DeFrancesco, the association's president, said nearly every brewer uses pellets made from dried hop cones because they preserve the hop's essential oils, are easier to ship and store, and don't clog the pipes of brewing equipment.

The machine is believed to be the first of its kind in Connecticut, and was purchased with the help of a matching grant from the state Department of Agriculture.

"This is a huge breakthrough for Connecticut," DeFrancesco said after showing and explaining the machine to a crowd of attendees who peppered him with questions for more than a half-hour.

He'll use it to process the harvest from his own acre of hops,

and plans to offer pelletizing services to other local growers and brewers. The machine can produce up to 400 pounds of pellets an hour.

"Before this, we had to go to New York or Massachusetts," DeFrancesco said. "Now we have the advantage of breweries being able to obtain locally-grown and processed hops in a matter of days from the harvest, rather than weeks."

While there were about 15 acres of hops grown in the state last season, at least 21 new acres are expected to be planted this year, according to an association survey that was discussed at the meeting.

Norwich landscaper and trained horticulturalist Brandon Hyde said he'll be planting a few acres at a former dairy farm where he is now leasing some land, and where the retired owner found wild hops growing and considered them a nuisance.

"They were growing right up this eight-foot fence," Hyde said. "He told me that he tried to get rid of them but he couldn't."

The hardy perennial is native to Connecticut and was abundant in the wild as well raised domestically a century ago. Hyde said he plans to have the wild hops tested at the

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LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

LOW HIGH

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	55.00	59.50
boners 80-85% lean	55.00	59.50
lean 88-90% lean	53.00	59.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	121.00	126.00
Choice 2-3	116.50	120.50
Select 1-2	110.00	115.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4 few	94.50	95.00
Choice 2-3	84.00	89.00
Sel 1-2	77.00	83.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime3-4	114.00	116.00
Sel 1-2	102.00	104.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 90-120 lbs	82.00	90.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
90-110 lbs	232.00	250.00
110-130 lbs	220.00	235.00
130-150 lbs	210.00	215.00
150-200 lbs	182.00	200.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
20-40 lbs	130.00	130.00
40-60 lbs	170.00	190.00
60-80 lbs	200.00	215.00
80-100 lbs	225.00	255.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	230.00	255.00
130-180 lbs	260.00	275.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
80-100 lbs	230.00	260.00
100-150 lbs	250.00	285.00
150-250 lbs	315.00	335.00
FEEDER STEERS Med & Lge 1		
300-400 lbs	135.00	140.00
400-500 lbs	125.00	137.00
500-600 lbs	122.00	132.00
600-700 lbs	124.00	142.00
700-800 lbs	117.00	128.00
800-900 lbs	112.00	117.00
902-950 lbs	116.00	119.00

DAIRY REPLACEMENT COWS

New Holland, PA, January 16, 2017. By the head.

FRESH COWS:

SUPREME	1550.00	1725.00
APPROVED	1250.00	1500.00
MEDIUM	1000.00	1175.00

SPRINGING COWS (7-9 MONTHS):

APPROVED	1475.00	1675.00
MEDIUM	1000.00	1350.00

SPRINGING HEIFERS (7-9 MONTHS):

APPROVED	1275.00	1550.00
MEDIUM	950.00	1275.00

BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS):

APPROVED	1200.00	1500.00
MEDIUM	900.00	1200.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Avg dressing. Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	48.00	55.00
	300-350 lbs	57.00	58.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	40.00	48.00
Sows, US 1-3	300-500 lbs	25.00	32.00
	500-750 lbs	25.00	30.00
Boars	200-300 lbs	15.00	22.00
	300-400 lbs	8.00	15.00
	400-500 lbs	5.00	5.00

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, GALA, FCY, 12-3LB, 2-1/2"	20.00	20.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, 80, 88	35.00	35.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, XFCY, 80, 88	70.00	70.00
APPLES, MAC, FCY, CELLPK, 120	18.00	19.00
APPLES, MAC, FCY, CELLPK, 140	18.00	19.00
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, #1, CELPK, 120	17.00	18.00
APPLES, MAC, #1, CELLPK, 140	17.00	18.00
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, THAI, M, 1/2 BU	15.00	16.00
POTATO, RNDRED, #1, SZA, 50LB	14.00	16.00
POTATO, RNDRED, #1, SZB, 50LB	16.00	17.00
POTATO, RNDRED, NG, SZA, 50LB	11.00	12.00
POTATO, RNDWT, #1, CHEF, 50LB	10.00	10.50
POTATO, YELLOW, #1, SZA, 50LB	14.00	14.00
POTATO, YELLOW, #1, SZB, 50LB	16.00	16.00
POTATO, YLLW, #1, CHEF, 50LB	13.00	15.00
SQUASH, ACORN, MED 1-1/9	14.00	14.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, M, 1-1/9	14.00	16.00
SQUASH, BUTRNT, ACORN, /LB	.85	1.05
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
TOMATO, GHSE, LOOSE, 25 LB	15.00	15.00
TURNIP, PURPLETOP, S-M, 25LB	12.00	12.00

VT RETAIL BEEF REPORT

\$ per lb or as noted.

TENDERLOIN	15.00	20.00
BNLS RIBEYE/DELMONICO	10.00	22.69
B/IN RIBEYE STEAK	12.75	17.00
NY STRIP	13.50	24.75
PORTERHOUSE	12.00	22.75
T-BONE	12.00	20.56
SIRLOIN	5.65	16.00
FLANK STEAK	6.00	15.00
SKIRT STEAK	6.65	15.00
LONDON BROIL	7.00	12.00
SHORT RIBS	4.50	11.75
RIB ROAST	12.00	21.56
SIRLOIN TIP ROAST	7.00	12.00
TOP ROUND ROAST	5.65	12.50
BOTTOM ROUND ROAST	4.05	12.00
CHUCK ROAST	4.56	13.75
BRISKET	5.88	13.75
HAMBURGER	4.50	9.00
BEEF STEW	4.50	9.00
HEART	3.00	8.15
TONGUE	3.00	8.15
LIVER	3.00	8.15

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - January 16, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	32.00	35.00
61-75 lbs.	40.00	43.00
76-90 lbs.	45.00	48.00
91-105 lbs.	50.00	55.00
106 lbs. & up	60.00	65.00
Farm Calves	100.00	120.00
Starter Calves	30.00	34.00
Veal Calves	75.00	110.00
Feeder Heifers	70.00	85.00
Beef Heifers	63.00	100.00
Feeder Steers	80.00	100.00
Beef Steers	71.00	112.00
Stock Bulls	88.00	110.00
Beef Bulls	95.00	100.00
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	142.00	190.00
Lambs each	130.00	290.00
Goats each	180.00	360.00
Kid Goats each	90.00	220.00
Canners	up to	57.50
Cutters	58.00	61.50
Utility Grade Cows	62.00	65.00
Rabbits each	5.00	25.00
Chickens each	4.00	28.00
Ducks each	8.00	14.00

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

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

XTRA LARGE	.70	.89
LARGE	.64	.78
MEDIUM	.47	.60

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

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

XTRA LARGE	1.25	1.35
LARGE	1.15	1.27
MEDIUM	.76	.84
SMALL	.57	.66

NORTHEAST RETAIL PORK REPORT

\$ per lb.

B/IN LOIN	2.99	2.99
B/IN CNTR CUT LOIN	1.49	2.99
LOIN ROAST, BNLS	1.48	3.99
RIB END ROAST, B/IN	1.29	2.69
SIRLOIN END RST, B/IN	.88	1.99
SIRLOIN CHOPS, B/IN	1.29	1.89
CNTR CUT CHOP, B/IN	1.59	3.99
RIB CHOPS, BNLS	1.99	1.99
SIRLOIN CHOPS, BNLS	1.48	2.49
CNTR CUT CHOPS, BNLS	1.98	5.99
SMOKED CHOPS	5.64	8.33
TENDERLOIN, FRESH	1.99	4.99
BACKRIBS	2.99	4.99
PICNIC, FRESH, B/IN	.99	1.49
PORKETTA	2.49	2.99
BUTT, FRESH, B/IN	.48	1.99
BUTT ROAST, BNLS	1.99	2.99
PORK STEAK	1.77	1.97
BACON, SLICED, 1 LB	2.25	7.99
CANADIAN BACON	6.11	12.77
GROUND PORK	1.87	3.99
CHORIZO	3.99	7.09

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Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, where several years of research led by Dr. James LaMondia will benefit growers as more hops come into production.

LaMondia gave a presentation at the meeting in which he detailed the success or failure of different hop varieties grown at the station's hopyards in Hamden and Windsor. A major focus is on finding varieties resistant to downy mildew, which thrives in cool, moist conditions and can be fatal to plants.

Other pests include potato leaf hoppers, aphids, spider mites and Japanese beetles.

LaMondia said the quality and yield of the station's harvest has generally increased significantly since the research began in 2013 with the help of Department of Agriculture funding that continues today.

"Nobody's grown hops here for 100 years," LaMondia said at the meeting. "Now we can say, yes, we can grow hops in Connecticut and in different locations. And the quality is as good or better than what is imported nationally or internationally."

To increase the market for Connecticut-grown hops and other beer ingredients, the Department of Agriculture will propose "farm brewery" legislation in the current General Assembly session to allow hop growers to brew and sell beer at their farms.

"We are going to introduce a concept of Connecticut-

styled beer," Department legislative program manager and chief of staff George Krivda said at the meeting, noting it takes roughly 13 acres of various crops to produce 1,000 gallons of beer. "We want to encourage farmers to grow not just more hops, but more cereal grains, more herbs, more florals and fruits and other components of beer that come from Connecticut. We're going to try to come up with incentives for folks to grow more of those crops that are put in beer and hopefully increase the demand for those products."

DeFrancesco said the association, formed in 2016, plans to begin working with the Connecticut Craft Brewer's Guild to try out beer recipes containing hops grown in state.

He has been brewing beer for himself and his family for years, and now under the "Four Brothers Till" label has one of his recipes being served on tap at Thimble Island Brewery in Branford.

There are nearly 50 craft brewers in the state, with new ones seemingly popping up every month, as well as a Connecticut Beer Trail and a Connecticut Brewers Fest, now in its third year.

Hyde, the Norwich landscaper, said he has already lined up two new breweries in that area to buy his hops once he gets a harvest.

"It's pretty exciting," he said. "As far as customers and investors, the interest is definitely out there."

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.

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.

128-R. Farm Bakery Equipment for sale: Southbend Silver Series Double Convection Oven, Sheet pans and racks, True brand Stainless Steel work top 2 door freezer, True brand Stainless Steel work top 3 door refrigerator, Commercial Chest Freezer, Ice Cream Case, Curved Glass refrigerated or dry display case, True brand 2 door Cooler. Coffee Bar equipment, Soup Station equipment, Wooden Crates & Baskets, Misc. Floral Items. Phone/Text 860.601.1942.

129-R. Coffee bar equipment, soup station equipment, wooden crates and baskets, miscellaneous floral items. Phone/text 860-601-1942.

130-R. Greenhouses for sale; (2) 26'x80' Poly Hoop Houses. You remove in the next 30 days cost is \$5K each or both for \$8,500.00. Plastic on one house only. Wiggle wire tracking, end doors, truss system for added support. 4' Hoop Spacing. These houses were custom manufactured in Connecticut. You will not find higher quality structures. Phone 860.307.5221.

133-R. Beef calves – Angus and Angus cross born 2016 and older breed heifers. Call Diane 860-302-9149.

134. Army diesel 6x6 M36 truck (LWB). \$3,000.00. Army trailers. Also, D8-CAT. 203-598-0807.

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.

131-R. Boulder Knoll Community Farm in Cheshire is seeking a Farm Manager to manage and implement production, maintenance, harvest and distribution of vegetables to CSA members and food charities. Information: www.friendsofboulderknoll.com/hiring or [in-fo@friendsofboulderknoll.com](mailto:info@friendsofboulderknoll.com)

132-R. Small lower Fairfield County farm seeks the services of an experienced farmer seeking fulltime live-in employment. Successful applicant will have extensive NE farming experience either practical or educational, including all facets of vegetable, berry, orchard farming and animal husbandry. Experience with farm equipment, operation, maintenance, pesticides, fertilizers, greenhouse, farmers' markets, and farm stand operation. Salary and benefits, including on-farm housing for up to a family of four included. For information to apply, please email: Jasmine@summitdevelopment.com



LEFT: Part of a hop-pelletizing machine displayed last week at the annual meeting of the Connecticut Hop Growers Association. Hops ground by hammer mills are brought by augur through a chute (at top of photo) where three metal wheels press the material through small die holes at bottom, forming the pellets.

BELOW: The meeting was held in a greenhouse at DeFrancesco Farm in Northford, where (below) Association president Alex DeFrancesco addressed the growers.

PAGE 1 TOP: DeFrancesco answering questions about the pelletizing machine.

PAGE 1 BOTTOM: A container holding dried hops on left, and finished hop pellets at right.



WORKSHOPS OFFERED ON COMPLYING WITH EPA PESTICIDE WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD

Three free workshops on how farms can comply with the EPA's Revised Worker Protection Standard will be held in the coming weeks. Discussion will include key provisions of the rule, as well as resources for keeping up to date on implementation and training materials.

Sponsored by UConn Extension, USDA Risk Management Agency and the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture, the workshops are scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to noon at the following dates and locations:

- January 23/Tolland County Extension Center, Vernon
- February 27/Middlesex County Extension Center, Haddam
- March 16/Litchfield County Extension Center, Torrington

Pre-registration is required. Please email candace.bartholomew@uconn.edu with the subject line "WPS Update" and include names and email addresses of all attendees, their farm or organization names, and phone numbers in case of weather issues. To register by phone or for more information, contact Diane Labonia or Marilyn Diaz at: 860-570-9010.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE www.CTGrown.gov 860-713-2500

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