

# Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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



Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
January 24, 2017



Above left: Vermont sugarer Dave Butler was the featured speaker at the Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut meeting last weekend at Lyman Memorial High School in Lebanon, where (above right and below), tours were given of the school's new sugarhouse.

## AS MAPLE SEASON NEARS, PRODUCERS MEET TO TAP EXPERTS' ADVICE

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

**LEBANON** - With the start of the maple sugaring season likely only a few weeks away, more than 100 producers gathered last Saturday to discuss ways to improve the quality and quantity of their syrup at a meeting of the Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut (MSPAC).

Featured speaker Dave Butler, a Vermont producer who works for Leader, a manufacturer of sugaring equipment, spent nearly two hours taking questions about the countless challenges and complexities of making syrup.

Though his job and as a judge in maple syrup contests, he said he sees too many producers making syrup that is either bland or off-tasting for a variety of reasons.

Chief among the pitfalls producers face is having their syrup tainted by the stale, moldy taste of bacteria transferred from their equipment.

"Bacteria in your sap can affect your color and it will definitely affect your flavor, Butler said to the crowd assembled in the Lyman Memorial High School auditorium. "We can't put a product out there that's going to turn somebody away."

Much of his presentation focused on the critical need to keep sap evaporators, reverse-osmosis systems and storage tanks clean of any leftover sugar

or impurities. Butler ran through a litany of techniques to prevent the formation of contaminants during and after the sap-boiling process, including:

- Meticulously rinsing sugar residue from evaporators and other equipment with hot water after every use.

"What grows in sugar?" he asked the crowd.

"Mold," came the reply from dozens of voices in unison.

- Using stainless steel storage tanks instead of plastic. "Plastic harbors bacteria," said Butler. "I don't care how many times you wash it or bleach it – they're terrible to clean and they're a bacteria trap. You have an enclosed poly tank, you might as well have a greenhouse for bacteria."

- Cleaning metal filters used in the finishing process with sterile water.

"Inspect them with a flashlight," Butler said. "And you have to dry them. Any leftover moisture can create bacteria and the syrup will pick up that flavor very, very quickly."

- Keeping ash from wood-fired evaporators fire to a minimum. "Anything that's airborne in your sugarhouse can become part of your syrup," Butler said.

He also spent considerable time



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**LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY**

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

**LOW HIGH**

	LOW	HIGH
<b>SLAUGHTER COWS</b> 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
<b>SLAUGHTER STEERS</b>		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	121.00	126.00
Choice 2-3	116.50	120.50
Select 1-2	110.00	115.50
<b>SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS</b>		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4 few	94.50	95.00
Choice 2-3	84.00	89.00
Sel 1-2	77.00	83.00
<b>SLAUGHTER HEIFERS</b>		
Hi Ch/Prime3-4	114.00	116.00
Sel 1-2	102.00	104.00
<b>CALVES - Graded bull</b>		
No 1 90-120 lbs	82.00	90.00
<b>SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled &amp; Shorn</b>		
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
<b>SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1</b>		
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
<b>SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1</b>		
80-130 lbs	230.00	255.00
130-180 lbs	260.00	275.00
<b>SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1</b>		
80-100 lbs	230.00	260.00
100-150 lbs	250.00	285.00
150-250 lbs	315.00	335.00
<b>FEEDER STEERS Med &amp; Lge 1</b>		
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 23, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	15.00	20.00
61-75 lbs.	25.00	30.00
76-90 lbs.	32.50	37.50
91-105 lbs.	40.00	45.00
106 lbs. & up	50.00	55.00
Farm Calves	60.00	70.00
Starter Calves	27.50	32.00
Veal Calves	75.00	145.00
Feeder Heifers	70.00	120.00
Beef Heifers	65.00	70.00
Feeder Steers	95.00	110.00
Beef Steers	64.00	98.00
Feeder Bulls	67.50	130.00
Beef Bulls	87.50	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	n/a	n/a
Lambs each	75.00	210.00
Goats each	107.50	285.00
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

**(Continued from Page 1)**

discussing the nuances of using hydrometers, a long glass tube used to measure the density of the syrup and its percentage of sugar. Connecticut producers follow the USDA standard of at least 66 percent sugar.

The hydrometer tells the producer whether a batch of syrup is too “heavy” and needs to be diluted, or too “light” and needs to be boiled more. Butler advised that sap must be heated to between 211 and 219-degrees to ensure a hydrometer is functioning optimally.

“Your hydrometer is very temperature dependent,” he said. “So you have to test every single batch. I lost as much as 10 percent volume because I was heavy on a couple of barrels last year.”

MSPAC President Mark Harran said interest in maple production has seen a steady increase in Connecticut in recent years, and is starting to draw a younger audience of enthusiasts.

Saturday’s meeting also featured tours of a new sugarhouse installed just outside the high school as part of its Agriculture Science & Technology program. It was tended by Dylan Jarvis, who graduated from the program six years ago.

He said sugaring is part of the curriculum of a natural resources class that typically draws about 15 students a year.

“They collect sap from a farm down the road and bring it here to boil it,” Jarvis said, noting that most of the

syrup is used at a pancake breakfast held at the school.

Overall, Harran said the maple industry is estimated to be growing by more than 10 percent yearly across the U.S. and Canada.

“We’re seeing about a million new taps a year,” Harran said. “But in Connecticut we tap less than one-tenth of one-percent of our eligible trees,” as opposed to 4 percent in Vermont and 33 percent in Quebec, Canada, home to many huge producers. “That explains why Quebec sells 7 percent of all maple syrup sold in the world.”

The Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture is aiming to get more trees into production through a pilot program that allows the leasing of maple trees in state forests.

Nathan Heath of Killingworth, who attended the meeting with his teenage son and sugaring partner Elliot, said he leases a few hundred maple trees from the state in Cockaponset State Forest.

Heath has been making syrup as a hobby for about a decade, and typically produces about 60 gallons a season.

“We put a sign out in front of the driveway and it all sells out,” he said. “Actually, between all the friends and family that want it now, I might not even put a sign out this year.”

The Dept. of Agriculture and MSPAC publishes a brochure every year listing sugarhouses that are open to the public.

It is available at:

[http://www.ct.gov/doag/lib/doag/marketing\\_files/brochures/2016/2016\\_Sugarhouse\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/doag/lib/doag/marketing_files/brochures/2016/2016_Sugarhouse_Guide.pdf)

**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](http://www.bludon.com)

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://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](http://www.friendsofboulderknoll.com/hiring) or [info@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](mailto:Jasmine@summitdevelopment.com)



**Above left: Nathan Reilly of The Bosworth Company in E. Providence, RI showing a meeting attendee one of the vacuum pumps they build and sell for use in pumping sap from a sugarbush to a collection tank.**

**Above right: The MSPAC offered producers free testing of their hydrometers, used for measuring the density and sugar content of maple syrup.**

### NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER AWARD

The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council is accepting nominations for the Connecticut 2017 Outstanding Young Farmer.

Nationally sponsored by the Outstanding Farmers of America Fraternity, the purpose of the Outstanding Young Farmer program is to bring about a greater interest in the farmer, to foster better urban-rural relations through the understanding of agriculture's challenges, to develop an appreciation of their contributions and achievements, and to inform the agribusiness community of the growing awareness of farmers' importance and impact on the American economy.

Candidates must be at least 21 years of age and must not reach their 41<sup>st</sup> birthday before January 1, 2018. Candidates are actual farm operators who derive at least 2/3 of their income from farming. Applications must be post-marked or emailed by February 19, 2017.

The winner will be notified in early March and the award will be presented at Ag Day at the Capitol, March 15. The application can be found on the CAIC Web site at the following link: <http://www.ctaginfocouncil.org/outstanding-young-farmer-application.html>

### USDA TO MEASURE NEW ENGLAND GRAPE PRODUCTION AND VALUE

The number of New England grape growers and acres planted to grapes continued to show substantial growth over the last few years.

To learn more about the trends of New England grape production, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is now conducting the 2016 New England Grape Production and Processing Survey.

"The New England Grape Industry has been asking for more data on the grape production and the value of production," said Gary Keough, State Statistician of the NASS New England Field Office. "This is an opportunity for New England grape growers and processors to provide more detailed data to that shows the economic importance of their industry."

NASS will mail the survey in late January to all grape growers and processors in New England. The survey will look at the acreage, production, value of production, and utilization of the 2016 grape crop.

Recipients are requested to respond by mail by February 17, 2017. NASS will publish the results in March 2017. For more information about the New England Grape Production and Value Survey, call 603-227-3129.

**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](mailto:Jane.Murdock@ct.gov) or call 860-713-2588.

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